

PLAIN TALKS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1975



50
YEARS
Of People
Serving People

COMMENTARY



On the cover of this issue of *Plain Talks* and as headline for this Commentary is a new Company logo representing the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Gulf States.

Plain Talks will carry the new logo throughout 1975 and will offer articles of interest concerning our past, present and future goals. A special Anniversary Issue is planned for later in the year. The 1974 Annual Report will feature an insert with a capsule history of the Company. Payroll checks will carry a new design, stationary will mark the occasion and other special events will also be conducted.

The entire series of activities is geared to pointing out the achievements and hard times of our first 50 years. We have managed not only to survive reces-

sions, the years of The Great Depression, periods of war and internal strife, but also to prosper in the end. Today we are ranked 48th in assets among all utilities (telephone, gas, pipeline and electric companies) by *Fortune*, yet we have excelled in using these assets to be graded 25th in total return to investors over the last 10 years, 23rd in total income in 1973 and eighth in growth since 1963 — fourth when you look only at electric companies.

All of us have reason to be proud of the accomplishments of the Company — whether you just signed on or can remember the days of Stone & Webster, ice houses and street cars. We all get a piece of the birthday cake.

Happy Birthday Gulf States!

Inflation Taxes

No one benefits from inflation in the long run, but economists for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States have found disturbing evidence that the Federal Government is raking in taxes from the American people and businesses faster than the rate of inflation.

From 1971 to 1973, total national income — income of businesses and individuals — increased 22.6 per cent to \$1.05 trillion. During the same period, however, government receipts rose 34 per cent to \$265 billion.

Government income rises faster than nation income because as inflation pushes incomes higher, the progressive tax system takes a larger share.

Add to this the state and local taxes and the Chamber economists found that \$3.97 of every \$10 earned is paid in taxes of one sort or another in 1973. In 1971 the bite was only \$3.75 per \$10 earned.

At the same rate of increase, the Chamber projects that government at all levels will come away with half your income by 1981.

Thanks a lot, inflation.

PLAIN TALKS

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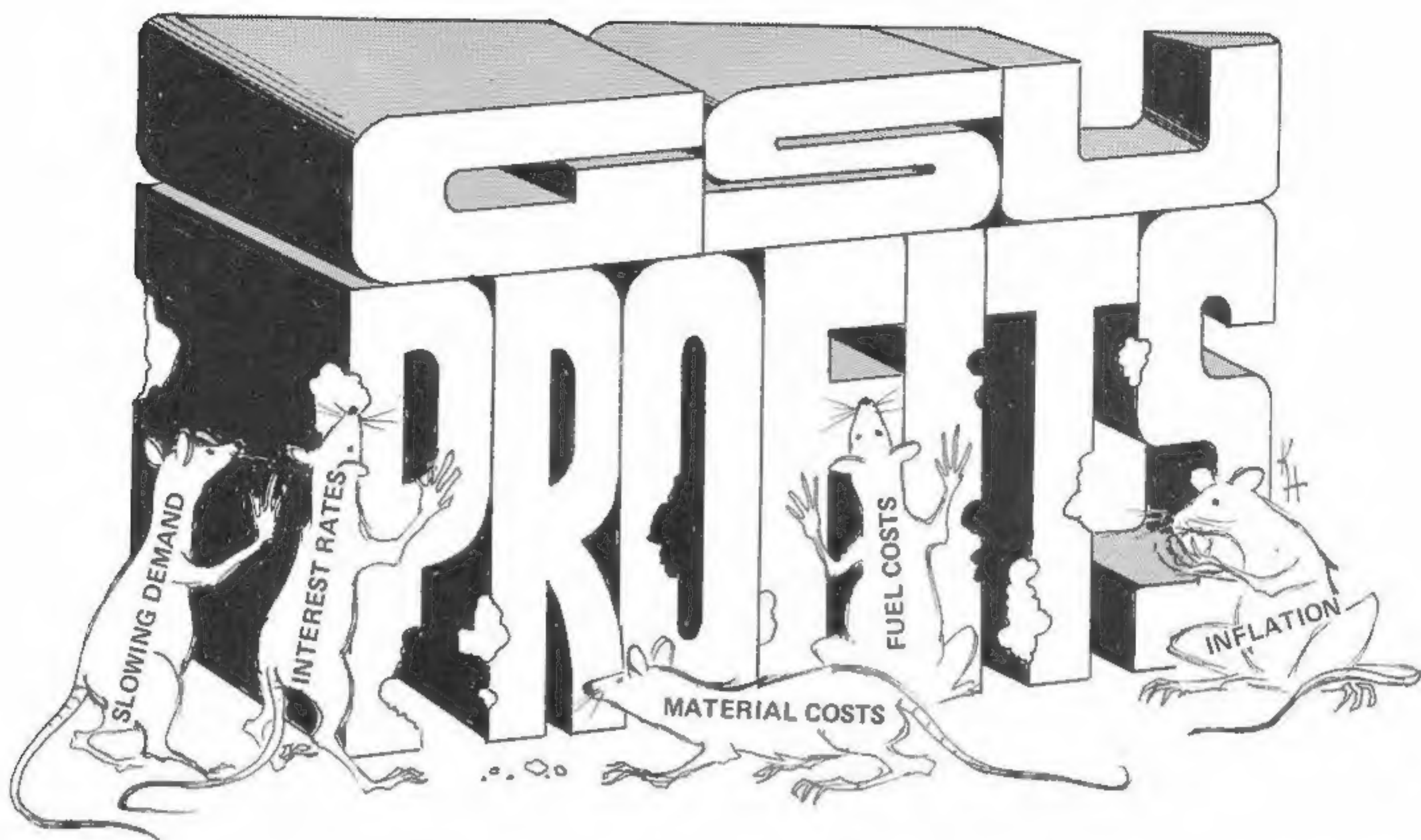
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ABOUT THE COVER . . .

Pictured with Chairman of the Board Floyd Smith is A. H. Demers of Lake Charles, retired superintendent of Nelson Station. Smith spoke to annuitants at a luncheon in each division to inform the retirees of the current financial condition of the Company. The news was somber but hopeful. Like the entire utility industry, our Company has had to face sharply escalating fuel and construction costs and record interest rates for borrowing money. A report on the economic situation begins on page two. A collection of photos taken at the annuitant's luncheons may be found on pages 20 and 21.





The financial gremlins have nibbled away at Gulf States' earnings, giving management a series of colossal Excedrin headaches trying to plan for the uncertain future.

"1974 has been a difficult year," Chairman of the Board Floyd Smith told annuitants at luncheons in each division in November and December, and 55 Company officials at a Speaker's Bureau meeting December 13.

Spiraling costs of fuel and materials, which pushed the cost-of-living to its highest increase since the end of World War II, increased our 1974 operating expenses 34 per cent over 1973. Interest rates reached record levels last year to make the financing of already expensive construction projects even more so. The demand for electricity (see Figure) fell short of predicted levels. As a result of the above factors, 1974 earnings per share dropped \$.01 from their 1973 levels to \$1.69.

Sharply increased fuel costs initiated the troubles.

Gulf States used to burn natural gas exclusively at a cost of about 20 cents per million BTUs — units of heat energy. The price of gas this year may range up to \$1.70 per million BTUs this year, according to Jim Derr, manager of power plant engineering and design. During the height of the oil embargo, replacement oil prices jumped to nearly \$4 per million

BTUs. Our major gas contract expires at the end of 1984. We have several short and intermediate range contracts which expire earlier.

The eventual use of nuclear fuel will lower fuel costs somewhat, Derr predicted, but not as much as had been anticipated. Estimates of uranium costs had ranged from 18 - 22 cents per million BTUs, Derr said, but will be at least 37 cents per million BTUs when the first River Bend reactor is brought into service in 1981. Nuclear fuel costs may average as high as 50 cents per million BTUs over the expected 28-year lifetime of the plant.

Efforts to fuel our gas - and oil-burning plants are supported by a drilling venture in southern Alabama and Mississippi by Varibus, Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf States (see story page 11). Gulf States has a large interest in gas discoveries on a 400,000-acre tract.

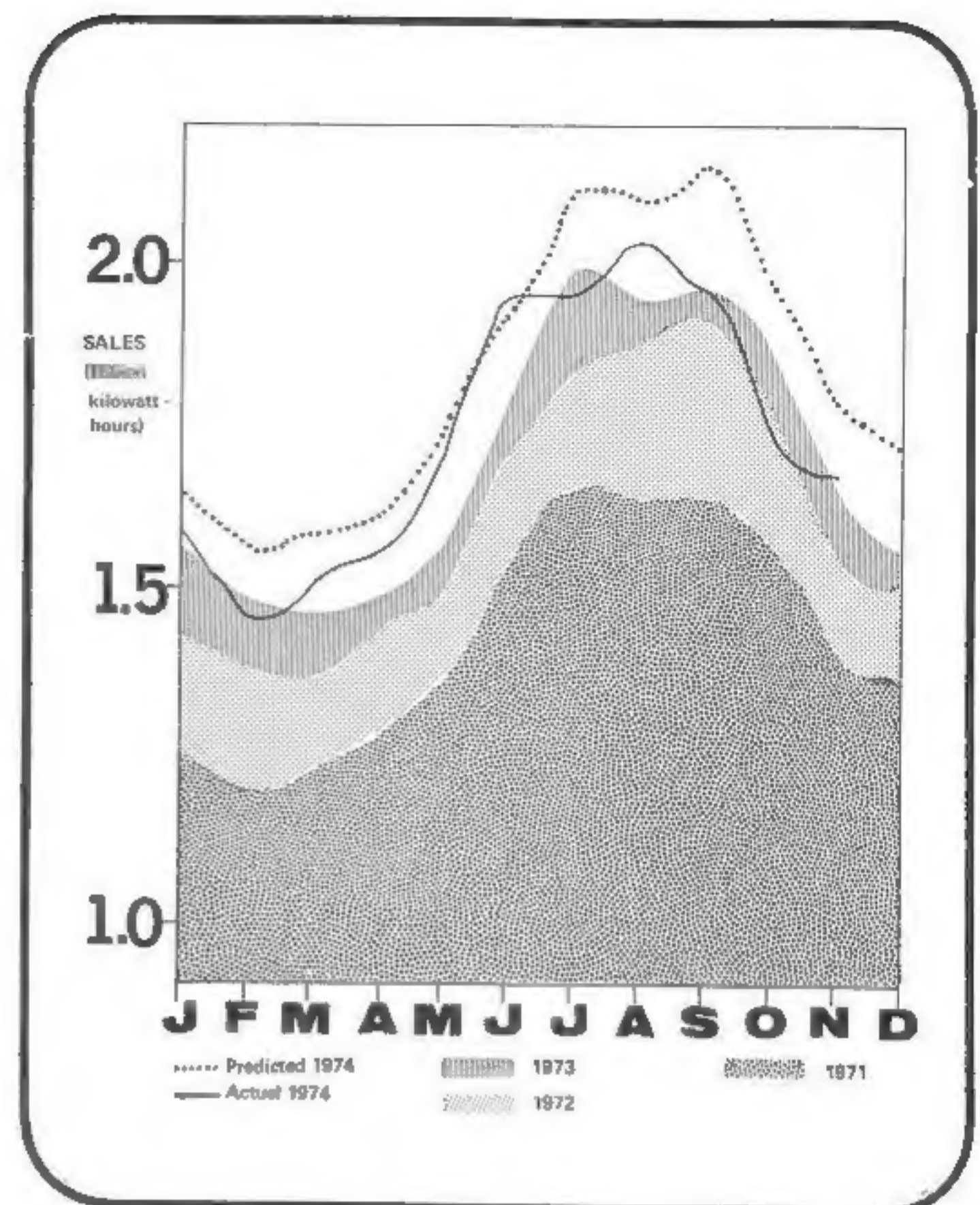
Should the Company not need gas or oil, any discoveries would still be beneficial.

"We got the option on the land in 1970 when we were looking for gas," Smith said. "Now we're just looking for BTUs, which we can trade for something we can use — such as coal and uranium if need be.

"When you have a BTU, you have something that somebody wants."

Construction costs and the increased interest

FIGURE — Growth in sales each month for the past four years. Dotted line represents the anticipated 1974 levels which actually were much lower.



charges to finance that construction have severely affected all utilities. Our natural gas plants were built for about \$100 per kilowatt of capacity. The figure is now about \$150 — a 50 per cent increase and escalating yearly.

Gas supplies are dwindling, however, and the management envisions the day soon that gas will be too dear to burn in power plants. So units at Nelson Station and Willow Glen are being converted to burn fuel oil; two coal-fired units are planned at Nelson Station; and four nuclear reactors are planned — two at River Bend, north of Baton Rouge, and two at Blue Hills, near Jasper, Texas. The costs to build these plants are staggering — \$500 per kilowatt for the coal units without sulfur scrubbers, \$600 - \$700 per kilowatt for the nuclear plant. These estimates continue to rise each month, reflecting continued inflation and expected increases in fuel costs.

These increasing costs of fuel and construction have changed the character of the utility industry. Historically, the cost per unit of electricity to the customer declined as the demand for electricity increased. Now the opposite is true.

"The new kilowatt that we put on is causing our costs to go up," Smith said. "We're trying to better use the capacity we have."

We may, for example, have to decrease our reserve objective from the present 20 per cent to 12 per cent. The Company may institute "peak-load pricing" to encourage customers to use electricity in off-peak demand hours — usually night-time — so that generators would not have to sit idle or be under-utilized. "Time of day metering" is under study.

Cooperation with industry is being sought to move their loads off peak periods.

During 1974, mild weather, patriotic conservation, and resistance to high bills have resulted in electric demand considerably below expectations. Since budgets are drawn up according to the estimated income, the decline in demand is quite a concern of management. Historically, this area had an 11.5 per cent

compounded growth rate in demand for electricity. During 1973 it declined to 7.5 per cent and dropped to 3 per cent last year.

Construction schedules have been delayed in response to this slowing of demand growth, but management realizes that we will need coal and nuclear capacity should oil and gas prices continue to escalate.

Consumer reaction to price increases — largely the result of increased fuel costs passed through to customers at no profit to the utility — was another new phenomenon in the industry.

"We're now competing for the consumer's dollar," Smith warned.

All of the above market conditions have had their effects on all American utilities. Moreover, investor confidence plummeted when Consolidated Edison in New York last April omitted its first quarterly dividend in nearly 100 years. Long considered safe, stable, income-producing investments, stock prices of many utilities — including Gulf States — dropped below book value — the value of the company's assets less the liabilities. (Stockholders own a proportional share of the company. When the share stock of the company sells on the open market for less than the value of that proportional share as recorded on the accounting books of the company, the stock is selling for less than book value.)

Gulf States is planning to issue additional securities this year and is concerned should the value of its stock remain below book value for long.

(continued next page)

An Interview With Chairman Smith

Telling the GSU Story

by JAMES TURNER
Director, Public Information

As most Gulf Staters realize, the recent stock market decline has presented a problem to executives of the nation's investor-owned utilities.

Inadequate financing — partially resulting from low stock prices and high interest rates — has delayed the needed expansion and modernization efforts of several utilities.

Finding that many financial experts are equating the situation facing the utilities serving them — mostly in the North — with all other companies, several of our management team have been criss-crossing the country in recent months to inform investment counselors of what we are doing to weather the storms created by the fuel shortage, skyrocketing inflation and environmental pressures.

Board Chairman Floyd Smith, Senior Vice Presidents Jerry Stokes and Sam Adams, Marketing Vice President Joe Robichau and Secretary Bob Jackson have conferred with securities analysts and financial representatives in Boston, Hartford, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"These are trying times, but the potential of the area we serve and the quality of the Gulf States team will keep us among the leaders in the industry" is es-



entially the message our people are giving the financial advisors.

Your chairman believes employees should be informed of the information discussed in these meetings. The following interview details the Company's financial strategy.

Q. Mr. Smith, what value do you place on these appearances before security analysts and other groups?

A. I consider this communications program essential. Turnover in the financial community is relatively high. New analysts must be acquainted with our Company. Financial representatives in other parts of the country tend to equate the problems of their local companies with the entire industry.

We certainly have been affected by inflation, fuel shortage and other problem facing all industries, but we have not been as adversely affected as many others. The potential of the area we serve is such that we need to assure these important people that Gulf States is a healthy enterprise and a good company to invest money in. And, that's what we're going.

Q. You mention the potential of the area. Will you describe that potential?

A. One of our most important assets in our geographical location, and I stress that point at every opportunity. Rather than being depressed by the fuel crisis, economists are saying that over the long term, development along the Gulf Coast area will accelerate. Recent announcements of plants and refineries planning to locate in this area or expand would seem to bear out these predictions.

Q. What does your group say we are doing about the fuel situation?

A. Basically, we are telling them what GSU employees already know. That is, electricity is a product of conversion from other energy sources, such as natural gas, oil, coal, uranium, falling water and other less advanced methods. Then, we outline our plans for an orderly evolution from using only natural gas as a boiler fuel to using a combination of gas and oil — the stage we're presently in — oil and coal, coal and nuclear. This plan covers the period up to and beyond the year 2000. After that, we inform them of

"This is not a healthy situation," Smith said. "You might be able to get away with selling stock less than book value once, but you can't go to the well again and again."

Selling additional stock below book value dilutes the investment of the existing stockholders, Bob Jackson, secretary and director-financial administration, said, "It will reduce earnings in a downward spiral."

"We need to regain confidence in our securities," Smith said.

For this reason top management has traveled to financial centers across the country to discuss the Gulf States situation with investment analysts (see accompanying interview).

"We had been all marketing and engineering," Smith said. Now it's completely changed. It's a financial game now. Tom Page (treasurer) runs a banking operation every morning."

Good financial management will aid in keeping the company's Aa ("double-A", the second highest) credit rating that allows us to borrow money at lower interest rates than firms with lower ratings.

One indicator of the company's credit stability is the ratio of the company's before taxes income to the fixed charges — chiefly interest on bonds.

This "coverage," which shows how much more money the company is earning than it needs to meet its barest obligations, has slipped from 3.86 in 1969 to 2.91 for the year ending August 31, 1974. Another detrimental factor is that the company must raise about two-thirds of its money needed for construction from external (sale of stock and bonds) rather than internal (depreciation and retained earnings) methods. Historically, it was the other way around.

But construction must continue, and Gulf States expects to sell 3 million shares of common stock and \$40 million of bonds in early April.

To the Financial Analysts

the ongoing research and development program in which we are engaged, directed toward producing electricity from the fusion of atoms, solar energy, geothermal and other more exotic methods.

We impress upon them that this country — and the world — will be relying increasingly on electricity to power future civilization as the supply of fossil fuels is used up. In the U.S., scientists say that by 2000, one-half of all energy used will be electricity, compared to one-fourth today. And this ratio relates to a much larger base.

Q. Are you asked about the recent changes in our construction plans for the next several years?

A. Yes, and we give them that information before being asked. The state of



the national economy, continued inflation and conservation measures being practiced by all kinds of electricity users are prompting many utilities to alter their construction plans. In our case, we have traditionally experienced about a 10% to 11% annual load growth. We run computer studies on this continuously, factoring in every conceivable component. Recent studies indicate that our rate of growth will slack off for a time, so we can delay — not cancel — building some of our planned large generating units. This will ease our financing pressure at this very critical point in time.

Q. What facilities will be delayed?

A. Remember, these schedules are quite flexible and subject to further modification in either direction, but at this time we plan to delay the two nuclear units at Blue Hills Station by several years, Sabine No. 5 and the coal unit at Nelson by about a year.

Q. How will these postponements affect our budget?

A. For the period 1974-1977, there will be a reduction of about \$500 million.

Q. What is our financing policy generally?

A. Our objective is to keep our debt ratio between 50% and 55%, common equity between 30% and 35% with the balance being made up of preferred stock. For the next four years, we expect to raise from outside financing about 67% of



the capital we need. We plan to do this through the sale of bonds, preferred and common stock and through short term financing. To raise this much money at reasonable interest rates we need to remain attractive as an investment. That's why we're presenting our story, which is a good one, to financial groups across the country.

Q. What impressions are you making on the financial folks you've met with?

A. The feedback we've had from those we've talked to has been encouraging. In today's economic climate, we didn't expect miracles to happen overnight, but we feel our work has had positive results. We will be doing more of the same in the future.

"The reason we're financing is that we see some good things down the line," Jackson said. "We are projecting growth in our area, and we need to build the facilities to serve that growth. We have filed an industrial rate increase which, when granted, will bring us additional revenue. The Varibus contract is also expected to bring in dollars.

"All of these things will strengthen our financial position."

Jackson stressed the necessity of retaining the dividend payments in order to attract investors. The Con Edison situation is a graphic example.

Annuitants who heard Smith speak at the luncheons would be happy to hear that.

"No matter what the price (of Gulf States stock) is", one annuitant shouted after the question and answer period, "keep paying the dividends."

"The next few years are going to be very difficult for utilities and very difficult for your company,"

Smith concluded the annuitants' luncheons. "We're trying to control our operating expenses and are confident we can get our earnings back up.

"We're anticipating an electric economy," he said. (See *Plain Talks*, December, 1974, page 10) "Electricity accounted for 25 per cent of all energy used in 1970, the figure grew to 27 per cent in 1974, and we expect to be 50 - 60 per cent by the year 2000."

Flexible construction plans to accommodate this growth indicate "Gulf States has faced up to the crisis early enough," according to Derr. The Company expects nuclear power to supply a stable, economical energy in the future.

"When we get a strong nuclear base," Smith said, "we'll be able to stabilize the price of electricity."

A comprehensive appraisal of the problems and future of the utility industry can be found in the Jan. 20 issue of Business Week.



THE APPLICANTS: Jim Meitzen, Jim Derr and Jim Booker of Gulf States



THE REGULATORS: WILLIAM

River Bend Wins Safety

Company plans to license a nuclear power plant for operation near St. Francisville, Louisiana, were given a boost January 9 when the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) approved in a letter the safety measures being built into the two reactors planned at our River Bend site.

"This is another very important milestone we had to make before obtaining a construction permit," Jim

A separate set of hearings is held to investigate both the safety and environmental aspects of each proposed nuclear power station. Environmental hearings for the River Bend project are expected to be held in St. Francisville this month or March.

Successful completion of the environmental hearing would result in the issuance of a limited work authorization to begin excavating, building roads, clearing the site and performing other non-safety-related construction. Safety hearings in St. Francisville should be conducted in April. After both hearings are completed, a construction permit can be issued.

Meitzen, senior project engineer, said after the committee's hearing in Washington, D.C.

The letter culminated four days of hearings and conferences with committee members and regulatory personnel of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), formerly the Atomic Energy Commission.

Eight Gulf Staters traveled to our Nation's Capital for the hearings. Included in our delegation were Meitzen; Jim Derr, manager-power plant engineering and design; Jim Booker, licensing engineer; Jim Wright, licensing engineer; Don Hamilton, project engineer; R. J. West, director-quality assurance; A. J. Champagne, supervisor-technical services; and Bill Klover, nuclear staff assistant. Supporting our presentations were experts from General Electric, from whom we are buying the reactors; Stone & Webster, who is designing and will construct the power plant; and the Research Corporation of New England, who conducted meteorological tests at the River Bend site.

The regulators are charged with the review of nuclear power plants to assure their operations will be safe to operators and the public.



Kane, John Stolz and Emile Bernard of the NRC

THE COMMITTEE: Z. Zudans, Myer Bender and L. W. Fox of the ACRS

Committee Approval

"What? You work for Gulf States and your name isn't Jim?" said the Stone & Webster engineer when introduced to *Plain Talks* Editor Mike Ross. Jim Meitzen, Jim Derr, Jim Booker, Jim Wright and Jim Champagne were among the eight Gulf Staters at the Washington meetings.

The Company submitted a multivolume safety analysis report in summer, 1973. An evaluation by the NRC published September, 1974, listed 31 items remaining to be resolved with the staff. These "open items" were reduced through technical clarifications to six before the ACRS meeting. Five of those questions, however, applied not specifically to the River Bend project, but to the entire nuclear power industry - indicative of the continual upgrading of technology and resultant changes in regulatory procedure.

Each item will be resolved prior to the issuance of a construction permit.

Members
of the ACRS
sat at a table shaped
in the same rounded triangle
of the Gulf States corporate emblem.

Halon 1301 Now Guards GSU Main Office Building



Carroll Henry details location of Halon components

A \$65,000 chemical fire extinguishing system using Halon 1301 — a freon-like gas — has been installed on five floors of the Main Office in Beaumont to protect millions of dollars worth of electronic equipment. The system will extinguish any fire but is specifically designed for use against electrical fires.

The word "Halon" is derived from "halogenated," which refers to the chemical structure of the agent molecules.

Beaumont Fire Marshal William Z. Lloyd said the Halon system is the most effective in use in the country.

The protected areas are the basement system operators control room, the third-floor computer and key punch rooms, the 10th-floor telephone switchboard room and the microwave and elevator equipment floors atop the building.

Officials of Ansul Co., manufacturer of the system, and Arthur Dooley and Son, Inc., local distributors, in mid-December briefed employees in the Halon-protected areas on how the system operates.

Detectors sensitive to combustion products are mounted on the ceiling and in floors to form the fire warning system. The detectors even notice gases emanating from an overheated resistor or a shorted wire — situations which could lead to fires if not corrected.

A bell rings and a light on the detector flashes when combustion is registered. A second detector in



Greg Decker sets the fire in an ashtray

the area must also sense the fire before the Halon gas is released into the room through discharge nozzles on the ceiling. This feature insures against a smoker inadvertently standing underneath one detector and causing the discharge of Halon.

The system can also be activated manually by pulling release handles in the protected areas. Areas of the building that are constantly manned will be controlled only by manual Halon systems. Detectors will still warn of invisible combustion products, however, to allow a search for the source of the trouble, possibly hidden in elaborate electrical networks.



Decker (arrow) barely visible through Halon fog.

When activated, the Halon system will automatically shut — but not lock — open doors and cut off the ventilation system to prevent dispersal of the vapor from the fire area.

Depending on the volume of the room, up to six bottles of Halon 1301, each containing from 18 to 90 pounds of the agent, are connected to the nozzles. Liquid under pressure in the storage tanks, Halon expands into a gas when released into the room.

The amount of gas released is sufficient to reach five per cent concentration — enough to put out any fire but half the concentration that would cause any personal harm. This compares with carbon dioxide, which is dangerous in concentrations higher than nine per cent but requires a 40 per cent dose to extinguish a fire.

Carroll Henry, building design section head, described the arrangement of equipment in each room where the detectors, discharge nozzles and control devices are located.

Charlie Richards of Ansul said it is not known how Halon 1301 works to extinguish fires. The familiar "Fire Triangle" of heat, fuel and air may have an-

Halon: A Thrill and a Chill

by MIKE ROSS
Editor

Surviving a blast of Halon 1301 is a thrilling, though chilling, experience.

Greg Decker of Ansul, manufacturing company of the fire protection system, and I were inside the disaster control room in the Main Office basement during a demonstration of the system. About a dozen men watched from outside the room through an interior window.

Decker set a fire in an ashtray on the floor in a corner of the room and manually activated the Halon.

A loud, rushing noise above my head, a sudden temperature drop and instantly dense fog signaled the gas' arrival.

Halon 1301 itself is clear but the lowered temperature caused the water vapor in the air to condense as fog. The quick chill also caused me to shiver uncontrollably. I was very much surprised the pictures I took weren't blurred.

After about eight seconds the noise stopped and the room began to clear. The fire had been extinguished without even a smoulder or puff of smoke.

Heavier than air, Halon 1301 leaked slowly out of the room through a crack under the door to the outside. A wisp of fog gradually descended, marking the upper boundary of the Halon. A match burned above the level but went out when passed down into the Halon.

Breathing Halon 1301 makes your voice sound more than an octave deeper. Otherwise, there were no apparent effects.

After leaving the room, I was chided by those outside for the abnormally tossed condition of my hair — caused, no doubt, by the Halon wind during the test.

Next time I'll bring a comb. And a sweater.

other side, Richards suggested, since Halon apparently does not affect any of those prerequisites for a fire.

Halon does, however, initially lower the temperature of the room some 20 degrees due to the refrigerant qualities of the gas.

Halon fire protection systems are already in use in the Willow Glen control room and the Sabine Station turbine oil room.

The Main Office system is part of a \$500,000 fire protection package due operational before April 1. Also being installed are full water sprinkle system on all floors and an emergency communications center, Henry said.

Accident Study Shows Nuclear Plants Safe

by DR. RALPH E. LAPP

In the face of 17 years of safe operation of nuclear power plants, in which no injury or damage has been done to any member of the American public, consumer advocate Ralph Nader has demanded a moratorium on nuclear power plant construction. He called nuclear power plants "unsafe" and said statistics showing that living near a nuclear plant is less risky than flying in an airplane are "meaningless calculations."

A recent government report has stunned but not silenced this vociferous critic and has sparked new debate on the subject of reactor safety. The study, headed by MIT Professor Norman C. Rasmussen, supplies accident projections which show nuclear power to be safer than many other things we do. (See chart).

But the 3,300 page, two-year study was attacked by Nader even before he saw it. His reflex response was, "There's really no way to take such a complex network of facts and projections and say the probability of an accident is one out of a million or one out of a billion."

The Atomic Energy Commission, has always maintained that nuclear plants are safe. But until release of the Rasmussen's \$4-million Reactor Safety Study in August it did not back up its claim with any up-to-date analysis of plant safety.

Nuclear experts systematically analyzed every valve, pipe, control mechanism and pump in a nuclear reactor that might conceivably fail. They fed the variables into a complex mathematical model and computers printed out the probabilities of how frequently an accident might occur. The report predicts what might happen if radioactivity is released from a plant's protective containment.

Many people think that a nuclear accident would be bomb-like, with virtually no warning. However, the nuclear fuel in a reactor consists of uranium far too dilute to explode. The worst thing that can happen, the scientists reaffirmed, is that a reactor cooling system might breakdown causing the core to overheat and melt through its thick steel-and-concrete containment. For this to happen, not one but several events

Dr. Ralph E. Lapp is a nuclear physicist and journalist who frequently writes for The New York Times and other publications on energy-growth and nuclear power issues. He is regarded as one of the country's foremost experts on nuclear power safety.

MANMADE AND NATURAL RISKS COMPARED*

	PROBABILITY OF 100 OR MORE DEATHS	PROBABILITY OF 1,000 OR MORE DEATHS
MANMADE		
Airplane Crash	1 in 2 years	1 in 2,000 years
Fire	1 in 7 years	1 in 200 years
Explosion	1 in 16 years	1 in 120 years
Toxic Gas	1 in 100 years	1 in 1,000 years
NUCLEAR REACTORS		
100 plants	1 in 10,000 years	1 in 1,000,000 years
NATURAL		
Tornado	1 in 5 years	very small
Hurricanes	1 in 5 years	1 in 25 years
Earthquake	1 in 2 years	1 in 50 years
Meteorite Impact	1 in 100,000 years	1 in 1,000,000 years

*SOURCE: REACTOR SAFETY STUDY, U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, AUGUST 1974

must take place: an accident has to sever a pipe and then all emergency systems designed to flood the hot core with water must fail — a highly improbable chain of events.

There has never been a core melt at any of the 52 nuclear plants licensed to operate in the U.S. The probability of it ever happening at any single nuclear plant is one in 17,000, the Rasmussen study found. Even then the safety hazard would be very small — one death or less. The likelihood of a breakdown in the entire system of safeguards to cause a "core melt" releasing enough radioactivity to kill or injure thousands of people — the type of a catastrophe Nader says is inevitable — is one chance in a billion years for a single reactor. In comparison, the report points out, the chance of thousands of persons being killed by a hurricane is one in 25 years, or by an earthquake is one in 50 years.

If critics insist in looking at only the "worst possible" accidents, there are other more portentous man-made hazards than a nuclear plant. For example, a recent report by University of California at Los Angeles scientists estimated that a 747 jet liner crashing into the Hollywood Park stadium could kill a maximum of 32,000 people. Such a crash has never happened despite the heavy traffic into the Los Angeles International Airport, but UCLA scientists estimate there's one chance in 100,000 per year that this might happen.

The Rasmussen report is not meant as the last work in nuclear safety. Critical review of its findings is encouraged.

A final version of the report, containing responsible criticism, will be published this summer.

Varibus Inks \$20 Million Pact



NORWEGIAN PACT — Leslie M. Moor, Jr., vice president of Varibus Corp. (left) signs an agreement for the exploration of gas and oil by Saga Petroleum. Looking on are (from left) Elliott Davis, chairman of the board, Davis McCoy, Inc.; Per G. Gulbrandsen, vice president, Saga Petroleum, U. S. Inc.; Alex W. McCoy, III, president, Davis McCoy, Inc.; and R. O. Newman, president, Public Service Co. of Oklahoma.

Varibus Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf States, on Dec. 19 entered into a \$20 million multi-party agreement that will involve the exploration, drilling and operation of oil and gas wells on more than 400,000 acres in Mississippi and Alabama.

The agreement gives Varibus and the Public Service Co. of Oklahoma rights to purchase the major portion of oil and gas produced from the discoveries.

Under the terms of the agreement, Saga Petroleum U. S., Inc., which is financed by a large number of substantial Norwegian companies, will spend more than \$20 million in exploratory drilling of oil and gas wells on the Mississippi and Alabama acreage now leased by Varibus and Public Service Co. of Oklahoma.

The more than 400,000 acres leased by Varibus and PSO lie over the geological formation in which there have been two significant recent Smackover discoveries, just north of Mobile, by Union Oil Co. of California and Getty Oil Co. Union is presently drilling two additional wells.

Floyd K. Smith, GSU chairman of the board, said the agreement culminated many months of negotiations and is another phase in a continuing effort by Gulf States Utilities to secure the fuel supply necessary to provide a reliable electric supply in the area served by the company.

Two GSU Employees Earn Degrees

Two main office employees received advanced degrees from Lamar University at the Winter Commencement Dec. 21.

Raymond D. Broussard, engineer in the production department, was awarded a Master of Engineering degree. Broussard said there was no thesis requirement but his course work concentrated on power systems analysis and statistics.

Ronald M. Carlin, contract representative in the treasury division, earned a Master of Business Administration.

UNITED APPEALS AWARD — The United Appeals Award Day in Lake Charles attracted 150 area employees to the Service Center. The group had earned a People Helpers Award for their overall average of more than \$30 per contributor. An Appreciation Award was presented for "fair share" having been given by 27 per cent of the employees in the supervisory department. Joe Bondurant, Lake Charles division manager, thanked the group for their cooperation in helping to make the drive a success. Specifically commended were John Landry, Lake Charles Chairman; Bob Dowies, co-chairman; and Ed Grimshaw, coordinator of supervisory personnel.



GOLD STAR GIRL — Marilyn Marie Cammack, 16, of Beaumont, receiving Gold Star award from Dr. E. M. Trew, of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. She is related to two employees.

Young Texans Honored By 4-H

Eleven young Texans in the Gulf States service area, including a relative of two employees, received Gold Star Awards at a 4-H District 11 Banquet in Houston Nov. 2.

The awards, the highest recognition given by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to county 4-H'ers, cite outstanding achievement, leadership and contribution to county 4-H programs while encouraging further participation and recruiting new members.

The banquet was sponsored by Gulf States, Houston Lighting and Power Co. and Community Public Service Co.

Among the 33 winners from 17 southeast Texas counties was Marilyn Marie Cammack, 16, of Beaumont. She is the niece of L. P. (Buddy) Cammack Jr., party chief, T&D engineering - survey, and sister-in-law of Gerald Wilbanks, environmental analyst.

A sophomore at French High School, Miss Cammack has participated in 4-H for seven years. Her major projects have been in clothing, foods and nutrition, lambs, entomology, bicycling, dogs, cake decorating and poultry.

Other area winners included Buddy DeVillier of Nederland; Sandy Park of Sour Lake; Randy Dorrell of Lumberton; Beth Hudson and Ricky Brown, both of Orange; Sabrina Jackson and Lonnie McKey, both of Anahuac; Era Marie Fielder of Dayton and Terry Owen Ward of Cleveland.

Holidays!

The Company recognizes the following holidays in 1975:

New Year's Day	Wednesday, Jan. 1
Washington's Birthday	Monday, Feb. 17
Good Friday	Friday, March 28
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
Independence Day	Friday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 1
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov. 27
Christmas Day	Thursday, Dec. 25



ROAD UNDER REPAIR — The Zachary, La., office (arrow) has been bustling with activity lately — not all of the electric customer variety, however. The highway in front of the office (La. 64) was closed for about six weeks during October and November while it was widened to four concrete lanes. "We had to put up detour signs to tell the customers where to park," said *Plain Talks* reporter Myra Ponthier. "It slowed the traffic through the office but the telephone business picked up. Those that come to pay their bills still found their way to the office, however." Construction along the highway from Old U. S. 61 to La. 67 is still not completed but customers now have ready access to the company office.

GSU Wins Ad Awards

Gulf States won six awards at the 1974 Addy Awards Banquet held in Beaumont Dec. 12 under the sponsorship of the Sabine Area Advertising Federation.

Commercials detailing the effects of the fuel clause on customers' bills won first place awards in categories for radio ads running less than 30 seconds and television ads running more than 30 seconds. The same theme earned a second-place "honor" award for television ads running less than 30 seconds.

The October, 1974, issue of *Plain Talks* edited by Pat McMeel, consumer communication representative, earned a first place award for company magazines.

Newspaper ads featuring Chairman of the Board Floyd Smith on the problems of the energy crisis received honor awards in two categories: full page black and white ads and an entire newspaper ad campaign.

The winning ads were produced by Goodwin, Dannenbaum, Littman & Wingfield, Inc., an advertising agency with offices in Houston and Beaumont, with the guidance of the Gulf States Consumer Communications Dept.

Plain Talks is printed by the Gus Becker Printing Co.

Projection for Safety

by ROBERT CHARLES

Now that 1974 has slowly ebbed away, we ponder in deep thought, what lies ahead for the coming year.

Many programs that arrived on the scene in 1974 will have to become real or die from lack of enthusiasm. Some will survive.

There is one program that must be carried on if GSU is to survive and this is the Positive Action Safety Program.

This program is to stop the spiraling number of accidents that has plagued the Company in the last few years. This program is to teach employees the safe and sure way to do a job with Job Planning.

To aid in this program, we must be our brother's and sister's keeper. We must insist that newer employees obey all safety rules. We must teach them their job. We must scold them when they disobey; yet we must understand them. We must help them form good habits. But we, too, must be alert — for no one is immune.

Why must there be a safety program? How does safety work? For whom? There is but one answer — survival.

A well-planned job can mean the safe return to your family at the close of a day.

So let's take the time to have the tailgate conference, talk about the job, and what's good for us, the employees.

BE ALERT, BE SAFE.

(Charles is a garage mechanic, first class, and has been employed at GSU since August, 1948. His article is reprinted from the Dec. 27 issue of *News and Views*, the Lake Charles division newsletter)



Cover Reprint - Free!

Plain Talks has received many inquiries on the availability of reprints of the Pat McMeel photograph used on the cover of the December, 1974 issue — pictured above with McMeel. In view of this unprecedented interest, we are making a limited number of copies available free of charge to our readers. The cover will be reproduced by our printer, without the *Plain Talks* title, on heavy stock paper, with an ample white border around the 8½ by 11-inch picture. This arrangement would allow the reader to frame the print as is, to use another mat as shown above or to trim it for use in a decoupage.

To order your reprint, fill out the coupon below and mail to December Cover, Editor, *Plain Talks*, Gulf States Utilities Co., P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704. Company personnel may use the company mails.

This offer is limited to one reprint per person. Allow four weeks for delivery.

PLAIN TALKS REPRINT COUPON

Mail to: December Cover
Editor, Plain Talks
Gulf States Utilities Co.
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

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Port Arthur Offices in New Building

by SUE WILLIAMS

The Port Arthur business offices celebrated the Company's 50th Anniversary year Jan. 18 by vacating quarters in a 75-year-old structure downtown, and moving into a modern building at 1540 Ninth Ave.

The new two-story brick building houses executive, sales and accounting departments. The building is steel-reinforced, has tinted glass windows in front and a minimum of glass throughout the rest of the building.

The first floor contains the accounting dept. and the sales floor. The second houses executive offices, a conference room, sales dept. offices, the home service kitchen and a 125-seat auditorium

and stage for the use of the Company and the public. The structure is fully air-conditioned, mostly carpeted and lighted to modern standards.

The outside is fully landscaped with greenery. At night, protective lighting guards the rear of the building while the front is lit for decoration and safety.

Moore, Stansbury and Vaught Architects & Planning Consultants designed the building. Weber, Inc. was the general contractor.

The building completes a Gulf States complex that also includes the service center and a 200-car parking lot.

Customers especially appreciate the drive-in window. The downtown location

had none and only two parking places were reserved for customers. Employees said they like the large coffee shop.

Official opening festivities were held in conjunction with National Electric Week, Feb. 10 - 16. An employee open house was set for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 10; a VIP reception was held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 11; a ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and followed by a public open house.

The downtown building served as headquarters for the Port Arthur Traction Co. — which operated an electric train between Beaumont and Port Arthur — since 1912. That firm was merged into Gulf States Utilities Co. 50 years ago.



Delores Douglas, Kathleen Wright and Sue Simon in the new coffee shop.



Lovie Green behind service applications desk near sales floor.



Jo Ann Lawson at accounting terminal.

Malcolm Williams Named Head Of Industrial Development Group



Malcolm M. Williams, Jr., director of area development, has been named president of the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association (LIDEA).

The association is a private, non-governmental body that works closely with the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry in coordinating development programs in Louisiana. Members of LIDEA include about 70 professionals with banks, railroads, ports, land developers, industrial parks and utilities that work to attract new industry to Louisiana.

"In a sense we're all competitors," Williams said. "But we pool our resources to help the state."

A legislative committee monitors industrial inducement laws and studies the competitive position of Louisiana in attracting industries, Williams said. LIDEA also helps communities prepare themselves to attract new businesses.

The association holds an industrial development seminar annually in April with the LSU School of Business and assists the state government on out-of-state "prospecting" trips to corporate headquarters.

Williams' term began Jan. 1.

Williams is a native of Silsbee, Tex., graduated from Texas A&M University and first joined Gulf States in 1951 but soon left for a stint in the U.S. Army in West Germany. He returned in 1954 and was appointed a farm representative and area development engineer in Lake Charles in 1954. He was promoted to industrial engineer in Lafayette in 1965 and to his present position in 1968.

Williams is a member of the American Industrial Development Council and a Certified Industrial Developer. He is also a director of the Texas Industrial Development Council and secretary of the Louisiana Intracoastal Seaway Association.



Lake Charles Clerk Decorates Her Gifts

A gift from Elouieese Akins is really two presents: the gift itself and this wrapping.

This past Christmas the Lake Charles customer accounting clerk wrapped up an owl pendant for PBX operator Barbara Wilkerson in a box made like a church (left). Note the stained glass windows and the steeple with bell.

And that was one of her simpler works.

Last year she decorated her office Christmas party gift as a Santa's workshop complete with elves making toys. One woman feted before her wedding received a "wedding cake" from Mrs. Akins. Each layer of the multi-tiered structure contained kitchenware items.

A going-away present of stationary to write back on was disguised in a U-Haul trailer wrapping. Another coworker leaving the office to become a housewife received a two-part present: a secretary sitting at an office desk and a housewife with a broom. Mrs. Akins dressed dolls to pose for that present.

As a final example, Mrs. Akins once constructed a farm atop one gift to an employee who was moving to Cow Island, south of Lafayette.

"She had never been in the country," Mrs. Akins said. "So I thought I'd familiarize her."

Each decorative wrapping contains the gift itself, of course, which is also thoughtfully selected to fit the situation.

Sabine Station Steam Leak Caulked



Scuddy Thibodeaux shows leaking connection.



Abston Perkins points to welded ring around repaired gasket.

A forced shutdown of Sabine No. 4 was averted in December with the application of a specialized caulk around two flanges leaking pressurized steam.

The leaks were in the reheat steam lines on the seventh floor of the unit where the steam is at 560 degrees Fahrenheit at a pressure of 660 pounds per square inch. Tightening down the gasket did not stop the leak and disassembly for replacement of the gasket would have required the shutdown.

"Due to system conditions we wanted to avoid the shutdown," Andy Anderson, general maintenance supervisor, said. "We're burning natural gas which is cheaper than fuels we're

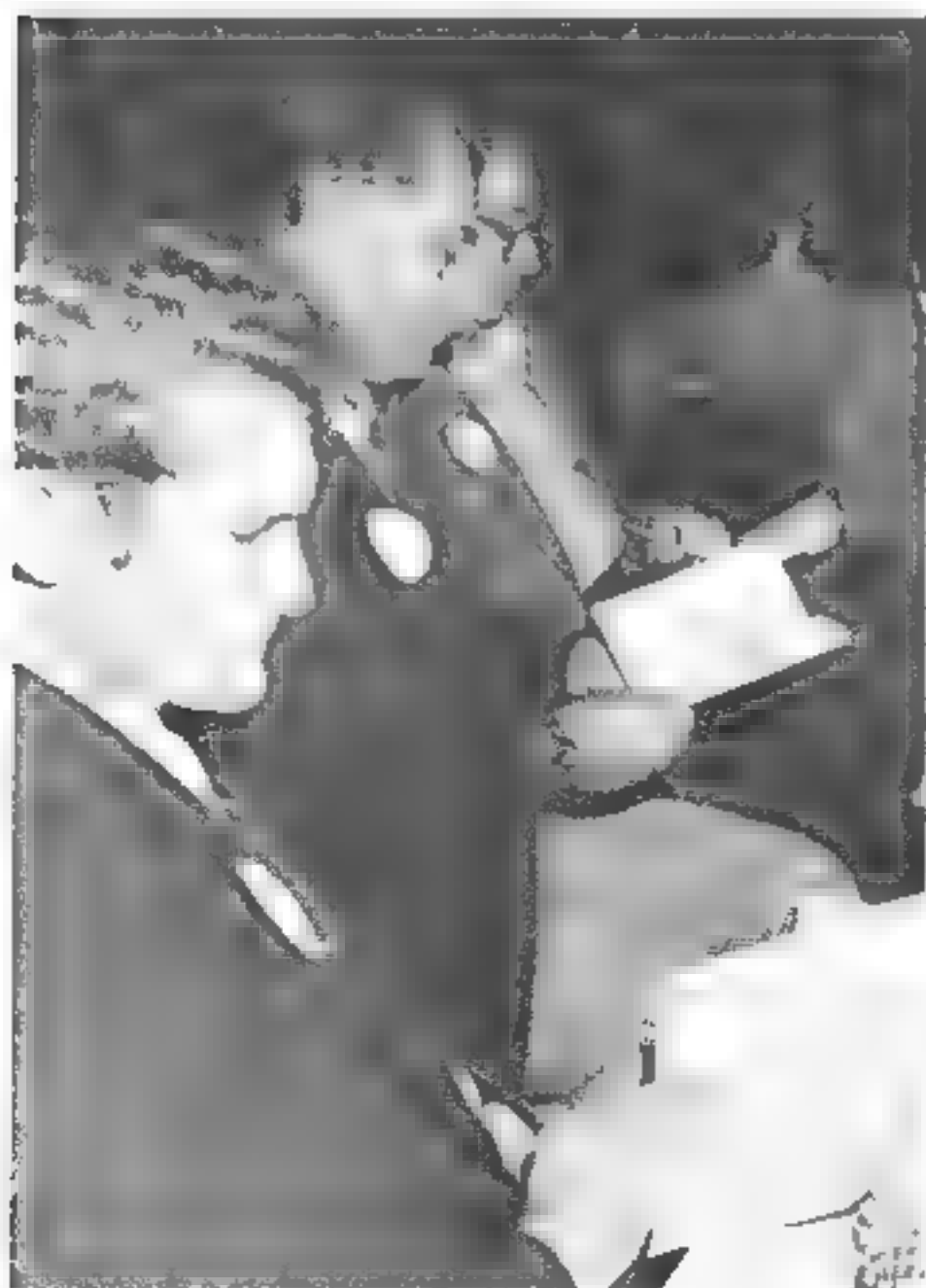
burning at the other plants. If we had to take this unit off, it would have affected the price of electricity to the customers."

The Furmanite Co. of America was called in to do the specialized stopgap repair. A ring was welded around the flanges on either side of the leaking gaskets and caulk was injected into the space between the gasket and the ring. The operation cost about \$2,500, Anderson said.

"There is still a small leak," Anderson said. "But overall the operation was a success. It saved us an outage."

The leaking gaskets will be replaced during the planned maintenance shutdown scheduled for this month.

Electrical Code Change Seminar Held In Beaumont



Beaumont electricians listen and learn . . .

More than 70 electricians, consultants and maintenance engineers from the Beaumont area attended a seminar detailing the nearly 600 changes in the National Electrical Code revised last year.

Instructor at the six-hour class was E. W. "Scotty" Berry, master electrician and director of the Technical Education Service Division of American Educational Services, Inc. The presentation was coordinated by Lester Saucier, supervisor - industrial and commercial sales.

The code is revised every three years but the 1975 edition is termed the "most detailed and comprehensive revision in the history of the code," according to AES. New equipment classifications were included for the first time, revision in the languages, detailing of exception and the changes themselves made this code vastly different from its predecessor.



. . . from instructor Scotty Berry

Cancer Society Film Shown To GSU Women

Female employees at the Main Office saw an American Cancer Society Film, "Breast-Self-Examination," Nov. 28, showing them recommended methods for the early detection of breast abnormalities.

Jan Schneider, departmental clerk - corporate and finance, was responsible for the program, which included Greg Johnson, District 10 executive director of the ACS, Gay Rose, R.N., director of continuing education at Baptist Hospital and

Carol Corley of the inservice education dept. at Baptist.

Regular monthly examinations were stressed in the film and the subsequent discussion period.

Mrs. Rose said most lumps found in the breast are not cancerous. In addition to early detection of possible cancers, the nurse said regular monthly self-examinations provide a woman with "peace of mind" that she is protecting her health.

THRIFT PLAN

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during December, 1974 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through November, 1974 were as follows:

Common Stock, 7923 shares at a total cost of \$84,861.02 for an average cost per share of \$10.711.

\$4.40 preferred stock, 108 shares at a total cost of \$5,008.50 for an average cost per share of \$46.375.

The Trustee deposited \$60,590.47 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank.

THE INDUSTRY

Arkansas Power & Light brought into commercial operation Dec. 19 the first unit of the company's Arkansas Nuclear One Steam Electric Station.

Construction on the 850,000 kilowatt unit began in January, 1969. The reactor was first loaded with nuclear fuel in May, 1974.

"The customer may not notice any decrease in his utility bill now that nuclear energy in Arkansas is a reality," said an AP&L official. "But he can be assured that his bill is not going to be as high as it would have been if we had been forced to rely almost completely on expensive fuel oil."

A construction permit was approved for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, a nuclear facility owned by Texas Electric Service Co., Dallas Power & Light and Texas Power & Light.

The first of two 1,150,000 kilowatt units is expected to be in operation in 1980.

Louisiana Power & Light has been granted a construction permit by the Atomic Energy Commission for the construction of its Waterford 3 nuclear generating unit at Taft, La., in St. Charles Parish.

The permit, issued after four years of study by the AEC of the LP&L application, grants the company official approval to begin construction. LP&L announced its plans to construct the Waterford 3 unit in 1970.

According to E. A. Rodrigue, LP&L president, work on the Waterford facility will start as soon as construction equip-

ment and necessary manpower can be assembled at the Taft location. It is estimated that at the height of construction activity more than 2,000 construction personnel will be employed on the Waterford 3 project, with estimated annual payrolls totaling in excess of \$90 million.

Mississippi Power Co. has filed a \$134 million suit in federal court in Biloxi, Miss., against Pennzoil Co. and a former Pennzoil unit, United Gas Pipe Line Co.

Mississippi Power said the suit seeks damages allegedly resulting from curtailment of natural gas at generating plants near Meridian and Gulfport. The utility said it has "for many years" had long-term contracts with United.

It said the suit charges that as a result of United Gas Pipe Line's alleged breach of contracts and alleged "misrepresentations" of its ability to deliver gas, the utility was damaged in an amount exceeding \$28 million in converting generating units to fuel-oil use instead of gas.

The utility said its suit charges that because of United Gas Pipe Line's alleged failure to deliver the contracted quantities of gas, the utility used fuel oil from Nov. 3, 1970 to last Sept. 30, at a cost of \$11.4 million more than it would have paid United for the gas.

Mississippi Power said the suit also claims that United Gas Pipe Line charged it "an unlawful rate" for the reduced quantities of gas delivered between Jan. 1, 1973, and last Sept. 20. It charged that the alleged excess totaled \$5.2 million. (Wall Street Journal Nov. 19, 1974)

Georgia Power Co. said it will receive \$320 million this year for shares in power-producing facilities to be owned by Oglethorpe Electric Membership Corp., a corporation organized in August, 1974, to help assure power supplies for 39 power cooperatives in the state.

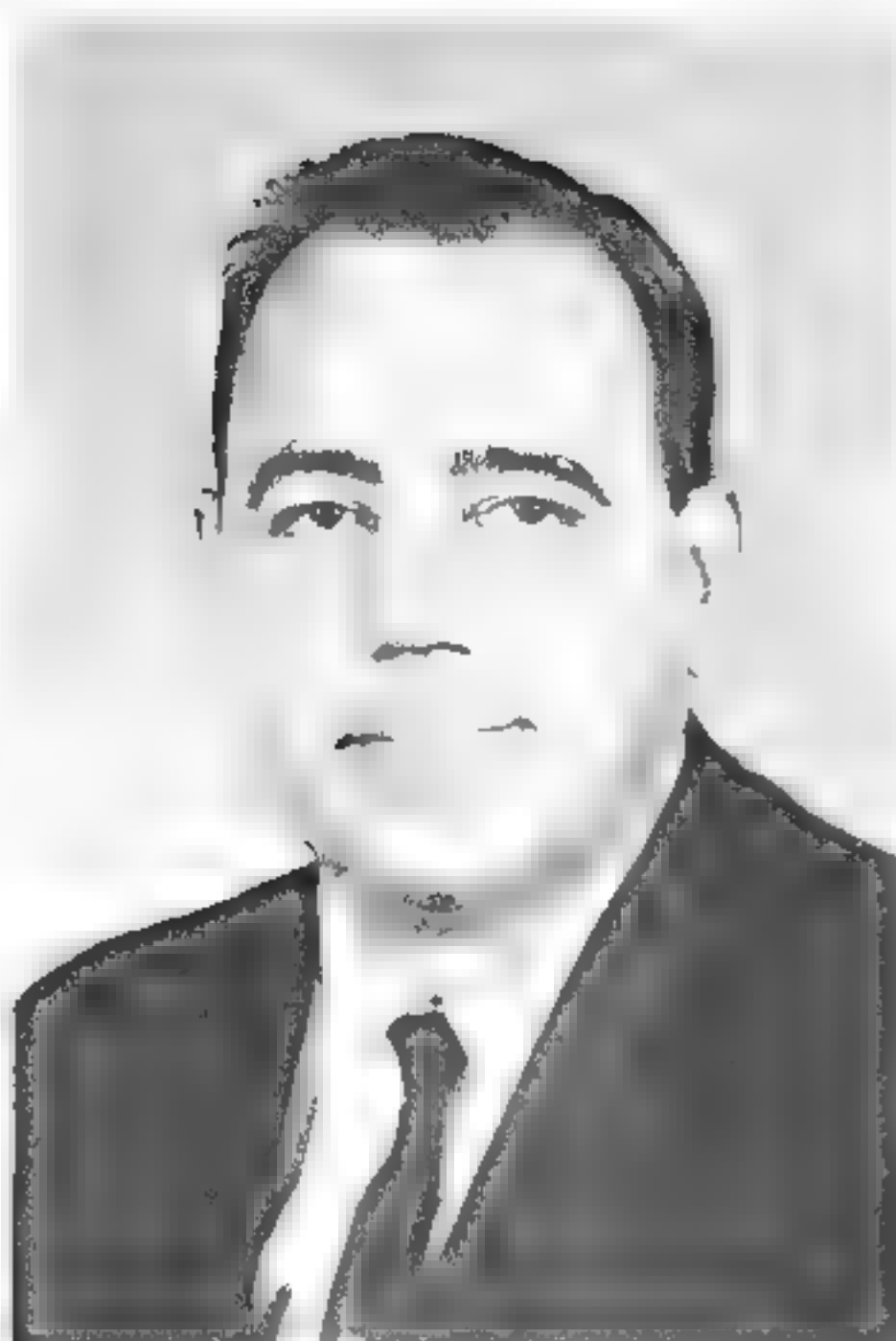
This is a \$168 million increase from what Oglethorpe had agreed earlier to pay and the higher amount involves a great share in generating facilities at Georgia Power's only nuclear plant. It also involves interests in four coal-fired plants and related transmission lines and the total payment over the long term will be more than \$900 million.

Georgia Power said one benefit of the program will be to help keep its construction program moving by supplying funds that would otherwise have to be raised elsewhere. (Wall Street Journal Dec. 11, 1974)

Contracts have been finalized which may lead to the commercial operation of a clean-fuel technology capable of making even the "dirtiest" coal environmentally acceptable.

Gulf Oil Corporation, Pittsburgh; The Southern Company, Atlanta; and Wheelabrator-Frye, New York, on Nov. 26, announced the signing of the contracts. The objective is to build a solvent-refined coal plant with a capacity of approximately 10,000 tons per day — enough fuel to supply the needs of a generating plant producing one million kilowatts of electric energy.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



James A. Stelly

James A. Stelly, superintendent of sales for the Port Arthur division, has been transferred to the Beaumont Division and promoted to Superintendent-Orange District.

A native of Lake Charles, Stelly came to GSU in 1949 as an industrial engineer following his graduation from LSU with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. In 1950 he moved from Beaumont to Baton Rouge as lighting engineer. In 1954 he was promoted to supervisor of commercial sales and in 1965 transferred back to Port Arthur to take a promotion as supervisor of commercial and industrial sales. He was named superintendent of sales in 1966.

Stelly, a veteran of the Air Force, has also been quite active in civic and professional activities. He is a registered electrical engineer in Louisiana, and while in that state was chairman of the New Orleans section of the Illuminating Engineering Society, State Director of the Louisiana Restaurant Association and a member of the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.



Ross Reed

His Texas posts have included being President of the 1972 Port Arthur United Community Services; President of the 1973 CavOilcade; CavOilcade Chief Commodore in 1970; Director, Vice President and Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the 1973 Port Arthur group of Ducks Unlimited and team chairman of the 1973 Port Arthur YMCA Capital Funds Drive.

Present professional and civic duties include being a Trustee and Secretary of the Port Arthur Independent School District, Vice President of the Port Arthur YMCA, Director of Mid-South Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, Director of the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Port Arthur Improvement Association, Director of the Port Arthur Rotary Club and Director of the Port Arthur United Community Services.

He is married to the former Billie Rae Vincent of Lake Charles, and the couple has two children, Jayme Rae and Kathryn Lyn.



Barbara Wood

Ross Reed, line foreman in Dayton, has been transferred to New Caney and promoted to superintendent.

Reed, a native of Dayton, joined our Company in 1946 following his discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. He progressed to serviceman first class in 1951, became a lineman first class in 1960. He was named utility foreman in 1964 and transferred from Liberty to Dayton.

Reed is married to the former Virginia Lee Hale of Dayton, and the couple has one child, a daughter, Linda.

Barbara Wood, a departmental clerk in the records department, has been promoted to coordinator-nuclear records

Mrs. Wood is a two-year employee of our Company and is married to Hugh Wood, a retired employee of Texas City Refinery. The couple has two children, Marcia, a junior at the University of Houston, and Clay, a junior at Forest Park High School.

A Beaumont native, Mrs. Wood and her husband are active in the First Christian Church of Beaumont.

RETIREMENTS

T. O. "Doc" Charlton, superintendent of the Orange district since 1955, retired February 1 after 47 years of service in the electric industry.

Charlton spent 41 years of his career with Gulf States, beginning as a sales representative in Beaumont in 1927. From 1936 until 1942, he worked as commercial manager of the Arkansas Utilities Company at Helena, Ark. The Arkansas utility and Gulf States were then operated by Stone & Webster Service Corporation.

Returning to Beaumont at the end of World War II, Charlton became division sales supervisor and later moved up to sales superintendent.

During his career, Charlton has been very active in community, church and civic work. He is past president of the Orange Chamber of Commerce; served two years as board chairman of the Orange County American Red Cross, of which he is a life member; is past president of the Sabine Area Council, Boy Scouts, and presently serves on the advisory board for the Boy Scouts of America Three Rivers Council. He is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for his more than 30 years of service to scouting.

He is a board member of Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle, has served on the Life Board and Governing Board of the Orange Memorial Hospital since its inception and is currently serving as board treasurer. He has served on the United Fund board and on the Y.M.C.A. building committee. He served two terms as a board member of Rotary; is a member of the City of Orange Coordinating Committee; is president of the Personnel Committee of the First Baptist Church of Orange and is chairman of the Public Safety Committee of the Action Committee, City of Orange.

He is married to the former Genevieve Westbrook of Kerens, Tex. Their son, Dr. Thomas L. Charlton, is an associate professor of history at Baylor University and has been elected program chairman for the 10th annual Colloquium on Oral History in Ashville, N. C., in October.

"I plan to rest a while and to follow my hobbies of gardening, fishing, hunting and some traveling," Charlton said of his retirement plans.

Dock Smith, special laborer in Lake Charles, will retire March 1 with nearly 27 years service to Gulf States.

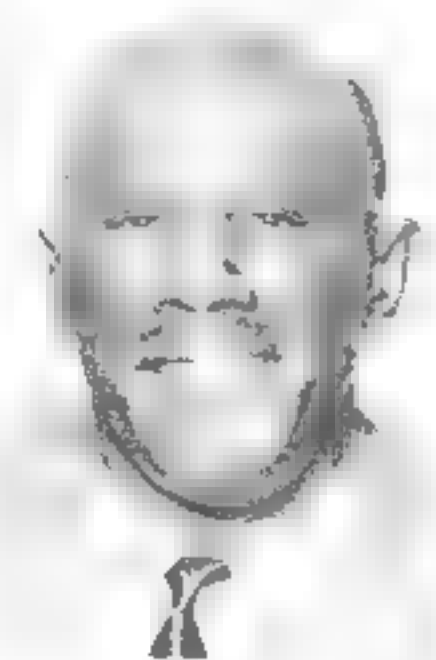
Smith is a native of Texarkana, Tex., served more than three years in the Army



T. O. Charlton



Clarence Napoleon



Dock Smith



Austin P. Thomas



John W. Theriot



Kirby D. Sistrunk

during World War II and first went to work for our Company on June 2, 1948, in Lake Charles.

He is married to the former Charlotte Jackson of Lake Charles. Smith is a member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church and an American Legion Post in Sulphur.

"I plan to travel and to visit friends and relatives; to relax and to do all of the things I haven't had time to do," Smith said. Those include making a small garden and going fishing with his wife.

"She loves to fish," he said.

John W. Theriot, an employee in the gas department in Baton Rouge for more than 30 years, retired Jan. 1.

Theriot, a Baton Rouge native, graduated from Istrouma High School in 1938 and was first employed as a helper in the

gas department on Oct. 5, 1944. He progressed through several classifications and has held the position of service man first class since Dec. 26, 1948.

He is married to the former Mary Ada Jolissaint of Baton Rouge. The couple has four children. Theriot is an usher at St. Jude Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Fishing and gardening dominate his retirement plans.

Clarence Napoleon, appliance repairman helper in Port Arthur, retired Feb. 1 after 39 years service to our Company.

A native of Rayne, La., Napoleon was first employed in the appliance repair department on Jan. 15, 1936. He was promoted through various labor classification and on Dec. 2, 1973, was given his present position.

He is married to the former Alice Brooks of Patterson, La., and has four children.

Austin P. Thomas, laborer in Port Arthur for more than 23 years, retired Dec. 1.

Thomas was employed Aug. 28, 1951, in Port Arthur and held the position of car washer in the garage at his retirement.

He and his wife, the former Elvira Jack, are natives of Ville Platte, La. They attend St. Paul's Baptist Church where Thomas is a lay minister. Thomas served in the U. S. Army for 14 months during World War II.

Kirby D. Sistrunk, serviceman first class in Port Arthur with more than 37 years service with our Company, will retire March 1.

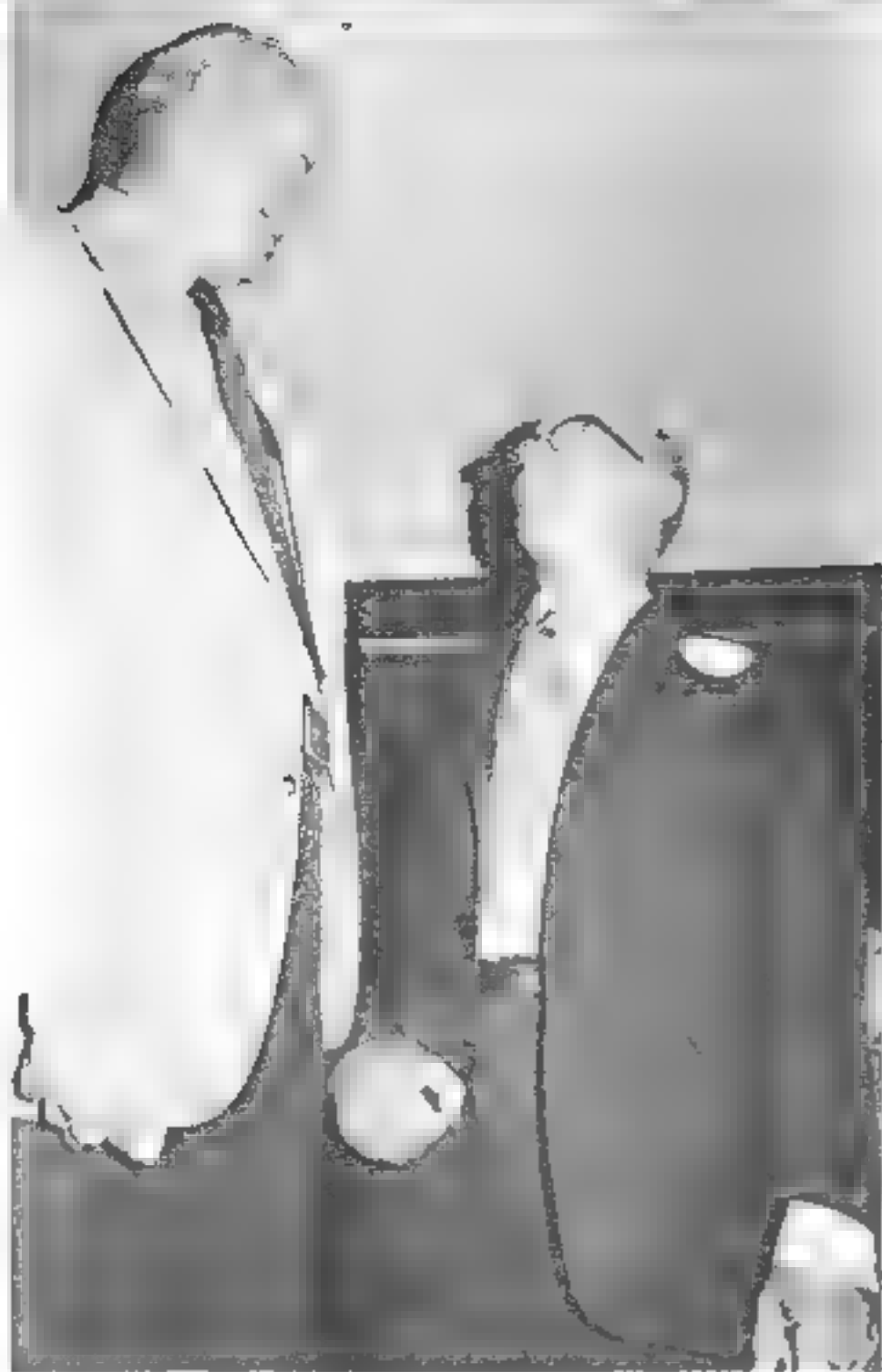
Sistrunk was first hired as a helper in the Port Arthur division on Aug. 4, 1937 and progressed to his present position on Sept. 16, 1944.

He is a native of Mitchell, La., graduated from Oak Grove High School near Converse, La., in 1932 and is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Tennie Laverna Bossier of Converse. They live in Nederland, Tex., and are members of the First Baptist Church there.

The couple has two children.

Sistrunk is secretary-treasurer of four organizations: Texas Baptist Men's Brotherhood of the First Baptist Church, the Love Offering of the Ready Men's Bible Class; the Musician's Goofers Group and Troup 52 of the Boy Scouts of America.

Sistrunk plans to spend his leisure retirement time fishing, hunting, keeping a garden and working both at home and at his 80-acre farm near Converse.



Annuitant's Gallery

BEAUMONT

Extra places had to be set at the Ridgewood Motor Hotel to accomodate the annuitants including (clockwise from right) Marcel (Ellie) Ellisalde with Chairman of the Board Floyd Smith; Frances Fuchs and Wade Phillips; Will Green with Neches Station buddies Emery Pintsch and Cornelius (Obie) O'Brien; Cecil Crawley, Smith and J. H. Albe; and the Mutt and Jeff pair: Bill Buckley and Lewis (Diddy) Welch.



BATON ROUGE

Enjoying the get-together at the Bellemont Motor Hotel were Bill Heaner, vice president for personnel and J. D. Fleming (left) and Blanchard Howard, Valdemar Westh and Jack Worthy, vice president for the Baton Rouge Division.





CONROE

Western Division annuitants ate barbecue at the Conroe office auditorium. Among the attendants were J. P. Lively and Earnest (Dutch) Foerster (left) and Jeannette Sangster with Jerry Stokes, senior vice president for finance.



PORT ARTHUR

William (Mooch) Ingwersen makes a point to Chairman of the Board Foyd Smith (left) at the Driftwood Motor Hotel luncheon. Also attending were Gabe Lute (above) meeting Ken Jumel, director - employee benefits; and Lyda Albers (far left) with Smith. Stella Clanahan is in the background.



LAKE CHARLES

Lake Charles annuitants gathered at the Chateau Charles and heard Sabre (Pop) Guidry's harmonica (above). Pictured are Henry C. Levois, retired Nelson Station superintendent (left) with Chairman of the Board Foyd Smith; Lillian Ferguson and Brad McMaster (right); and George West and Joseph (Pat) Connelly (far right).



SERVICE AWARDS



Joyce O. Smith
Electric T&D Department
Beaumont



Murphy J. Gautreau
Division Treasury
Baton Rouge



Anthony B. Reder
Electric T&D Department
Lake Charles



Ray John Cormier
Electric T&D Department
Sulphur

**20
Years**



Larry C. Madden
Division Production
Conroe

**10
Years**



William D. Boyd
Electric T&D Department
Baton Rouge



Alene A. Cole
Division Treasury
Woodville



Betty C. Dowell
Division Treasury
Calvert



Robert D. Phelps
Information & Data Services
Beaumont

40 Years



Manson C. Corkern, Jr.
Division Treasury
Baton Rouge



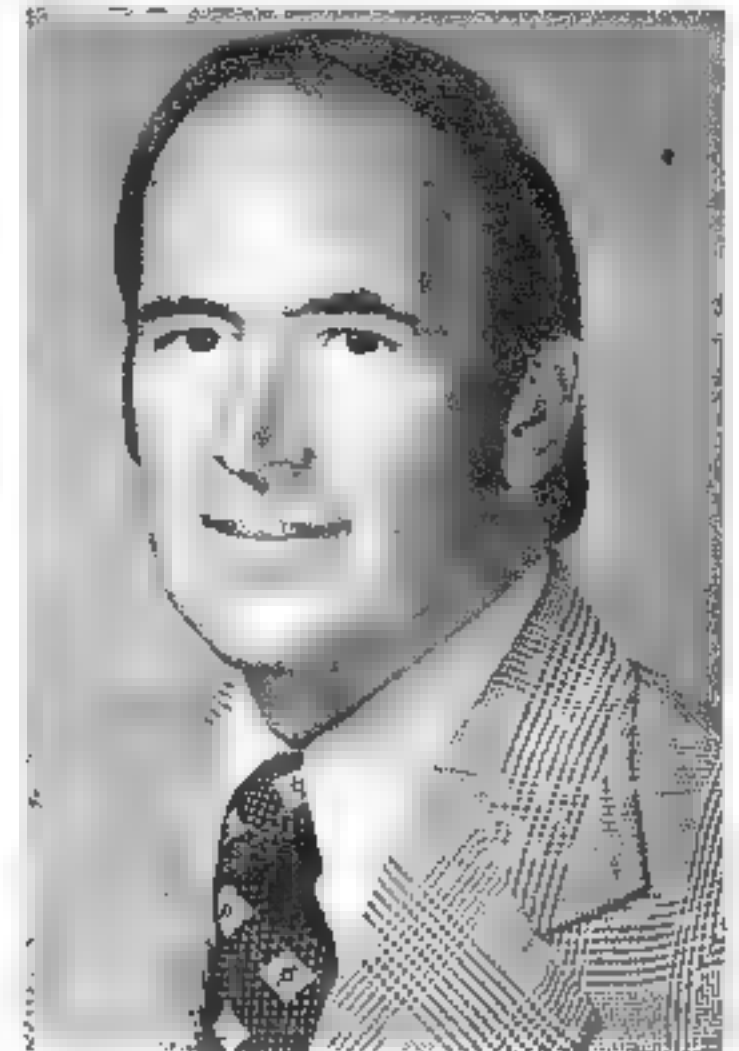
Van B. Hereford, Jr.
Division Treasury
Baton Rouge



Tommy L. White
Division Production
Baton Rouge



Charles W. Jones
Division Production
Madisonville



Clayton A. Arnold
System Treasury
Beaumont

30 Years



Charles R. Jones, Jr.
Electric T&D Department
Baton Rouge



Arthur Wilson
Division Production
Baton Rouge



George J. Simoneaux
Gas Department
Baton Rouge



E. R. Saide
Electric T&D Department
Orange



Dorlene L. Abrahams
Division Treasury
Lake Charles



Steve C. Oliphint
Division Production
Baton Rouge

DEATHS



Sheldon G. Sibley

Sheldon G. Sibley, 63, retired substation mechanic in the Lake Charles T & D substation, died Dec. 5 in Methodist Hospital in Houston after a long illness.

Sibley had retired Oct. 1 with 48 years service to the Company — the longest tenure of any active employee at the time.

He hired on as an ice boy in 1926 at the age of 14. He was promoted to helper in 1929 and rose through various classifications in the Lake Charles T & D Department during his career.

Sibley is survived by his wife, Bessie Lee Sibley of Lake Charles; two sons, Carl G. Sibley of Lake Charles and Sheldon D. Sibley of Baton Rouge; one sister, Anna Belle English of Lake Charles; one brother, George W. Sibley, Jr. of San Antonio, Tex. and one grandchild.

Herman Kuykendall, 75, of Montgomery, Tex., retired storeroom assistant in Conroe, died Dec. 22 in Medical Center



Herman Kuykendall

Hospital, Conroe, after a lengthy illness.

Kuykendall served more than 35 years with our Company, beginning as an extra laborer in Conroe in 1929. Later that year he moved into the ice department as a deliveryman. He worked in that department until 1933 when he became an operator in the Conroe power plant. He served there until the plant was shut down in 1954.

Kuykendall then became an operator in the Substation Department and served as storeroom assistant from 1960 until his retirement Oct. 31, 1964.

He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Kuykendall is survived by his wife, the former Cosette Ricker; two sons, George Kuykendall of Huntsville and Richard Kuykendall of Lovelady; four daughters, Mary Beth Burnett of Freeport, Lynn Campbell of Lovelady, and Barbara Peal and Eunice Rogers, both of Montgomery;



Thomas C. Merriman

one brother, Winton Kuykendall of Willis; 23 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Thomas C. (Cotton) Merriman, 68, retired employee in the T & D Department in Beaumont, died Nov. 19 at his home in Wildwood, near Village Mills, Tex.

Merriman is a native of Orange, Tex., but graduated from DeRidder (La.) High School. He joined our Company in 1936 as a helper in T & D. He was promoted to substation mechanic second class in 1941 and to substation mechanic first class in 1943.

He retired April 1, 1968.

Merriman was a member of the Wildwood Civic Club, Big Thicket Association and the Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, the former Minnie Lee Patterson; one son, Marvin E. Merriman of Shreveport; and three grandchildren.

COFFEE CUP

Bernice Eaves Parties Into Retirement



A FLIGHT BAG? ... OOOLALA! — The biggest surprise at the trio of parties for Bernice Eaves was discovering the contents of a li'l ol' flight bag contained more than \$200 in cash — to help Mrs. Eaves take a long-awaited trip to Hawaii. Making the presentation was Mrs. Eaves' last direct supervisor, Ervin Berger, senior administrative accountant.



SWARM OF SUPERVISORS — Bernice Eaves, retired customer billing clerk, is honored by seven of her 14 supervisors during her 27 years with our Company at one of her retirement parties. From the left are: Jim Braswell, Skippy Green, Robert Sheffield, Mrs. Eaves, Mickey Wilson, Ervin Berger, John Scott and Kit Evans.

Bernice Eaves left Gulf States in style. Three retirement parties were held in honor of the retiring customer billing clerk.

The first — Dec. 17 at the Red Carpet Inn — was coordinated by Systems Analyst Henry Marino, Jr.

"Several years ago Bernice had said that when she retired she wanted a swinging party," Marino said. "So when it came time for her to retire she had one — complete with champagne."

Mrs. Eaves confirmed the event was "not a tea and punch affair."

"They had fun 'roasting' me and giving me gag gifts," she said. One present was a diploma from Gulf States University — earned after 27 years of study.

Her coworkers threw an office bash on Mrs. Eaves' last day of work, Dec. 31. She received a Living Bible she cherishes very much, various household gifts and a "retirement fund" bank shaped as a woman in a rocking chair.

Mrs. Eaves returned on Jan. 7 for a more formal party at which her friends from across the system wished her a happy retirement.

"I had 14 supervisors — which must be some sort of record," she said. "Mickey Wilson (now senior internal auditor in the treasury department) said I sure must have worn them out fast."

Highlight of the affair was the presentation of a flight bag containing more than \$200. Mrs. Eaves had expressed an interest in traveling to Hawaii so her friends pitched in to help her get there.

As retirement approached, however, she began to get second thoughts about quitting working.

"I just haven't got working out of my system yet," she said. "I am really lost without my work. I intend to travel some and get to Hawaii — but I hope to find a part-time job first."

Buxom Birthdays At Choctaw S.C.



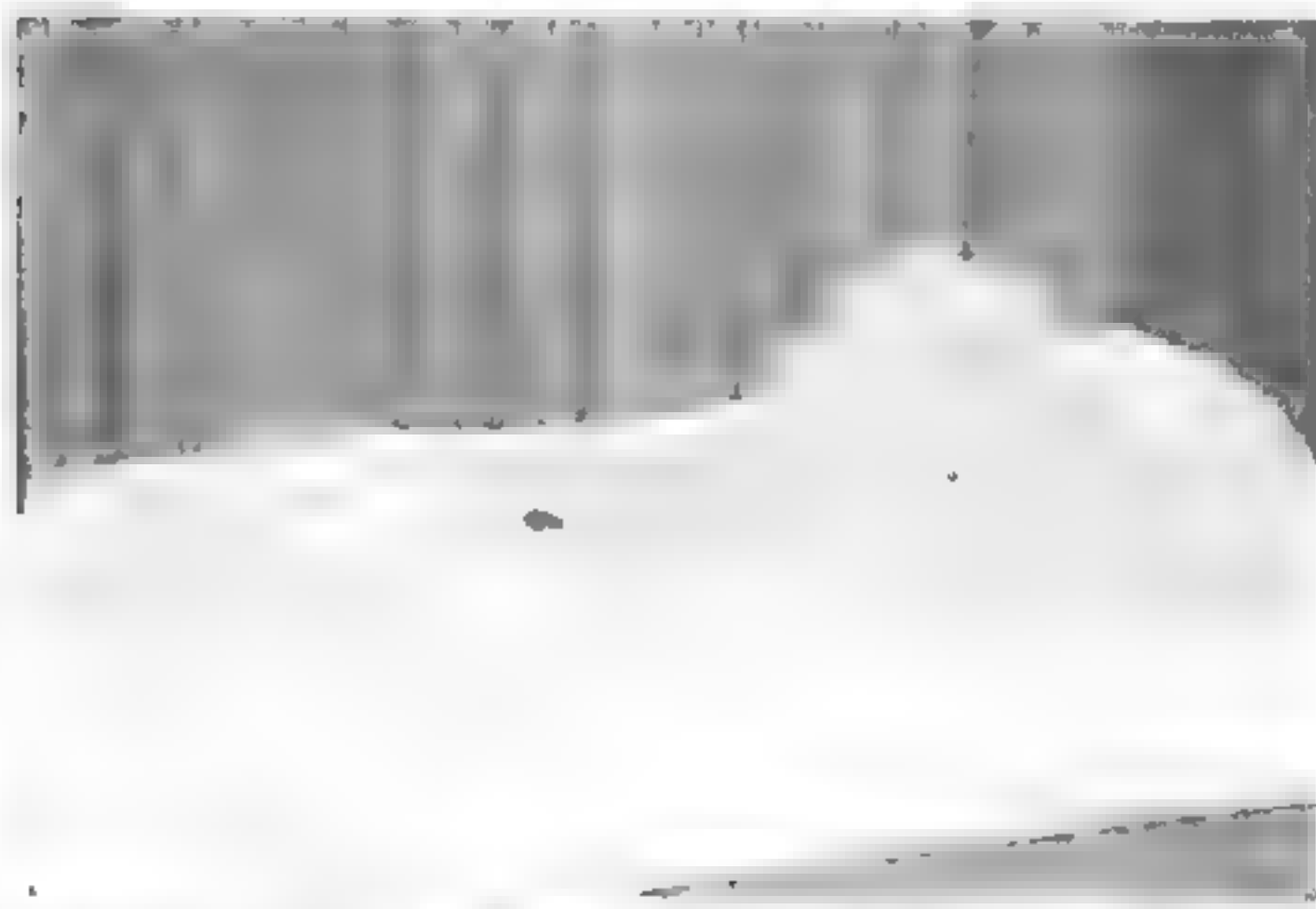
Sunny Garrene and Boone Chaney, best buddies at Choctaw Service Center in Baton Rouge, celebrate their birthdays together, since they fall just two days apart. Garrene, garage mechanic first class, adds another year on Sept. 10 while Chaney, shop foreman, passes the turnstile on Sept. 12.

This past fall their wives presented the pair with a "Happy Bust-day" cake decorated as a well-endowed, bikini-clad torso. Both men were amused and impressed. They did not, however, know the identity of the model.

"You should have seen last year's," Chaney said. "Our wives brought in a large round cake but we weren't able to cut it. We finally got a hacksaw blade and discovered the cake was foam rubber with icing on top of it. We had invited a lot of people (to the birthday party).

"Talk about red faces."

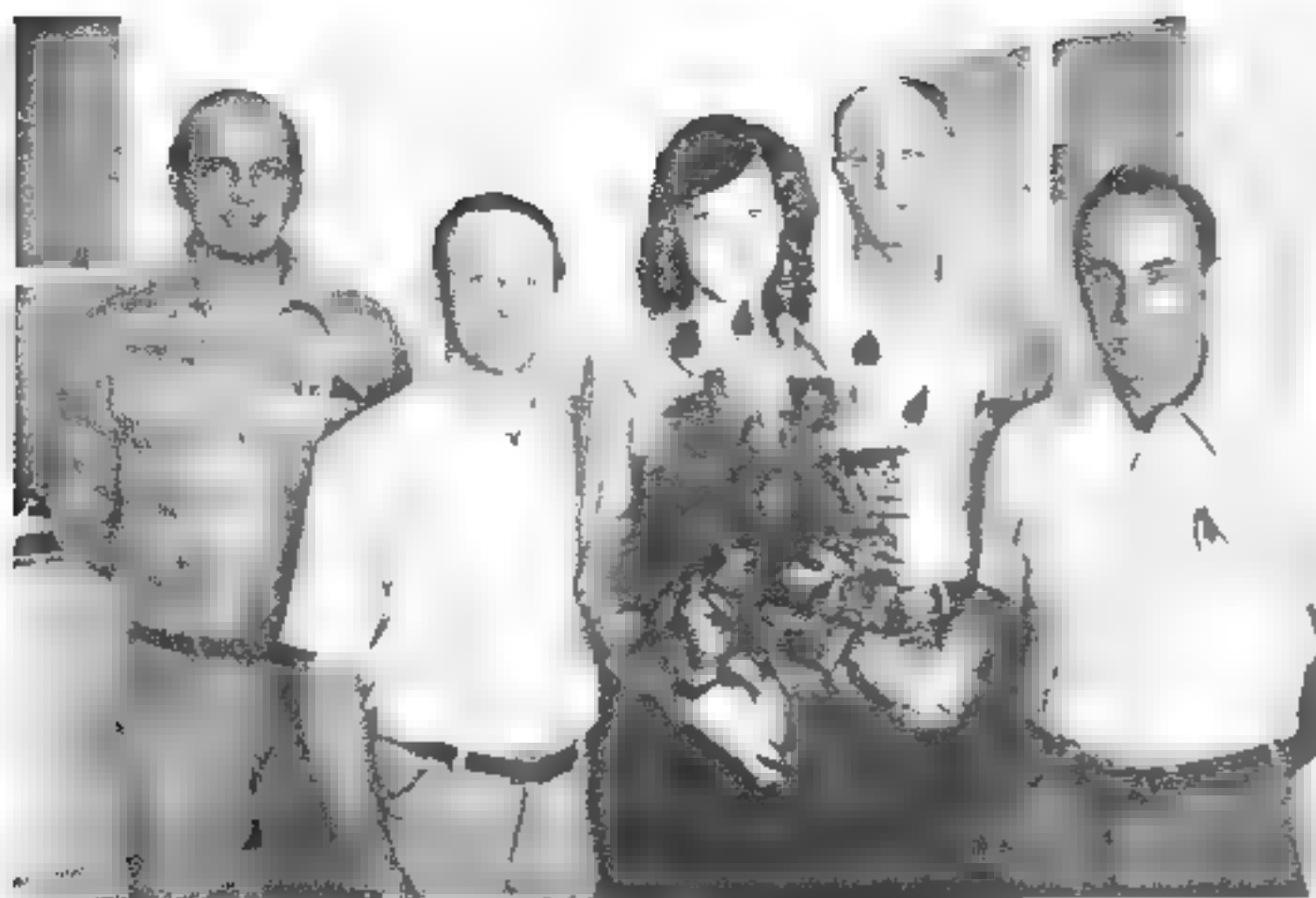
Chaney and Garrene assured *Plain Talks* the Bust-day cake was edible and tasted as luscious as it looked.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Ed Hegwood, assistant to the general foreman, line department in Beaumont, was treated to a chorus line performance and a cake by Linda McSwain (left), Pat Wakefield, June Jones, Jerry Terry, Joyce Smith and JoAnne Landry on his last birthday. (from Carolyn Motl)



WISE GUYES — Gary Guye, administrative accountant in Beaumont, stores and salvage, is smiling like a proud father underneath his surgical mask. Just 18 hours old at the time of this picture, Amy Rachelle Guye was born in St. Elizabeth Hospital to Gary's wife, Laura, on Dec. 7.



BIRTHDAY ROSES — Lake Charles storeroom personnel presented Bessie Esthay, storeroom clerk, a lovely arrangement of red roses for her birthday in November. Pictured with Bessie are Judge Williamson, Gene Hebert, Johnny Prejean (Bessie's supervisor) and Theodore Matte. (from Johnnie Harris)



LAKE CHARLES HUSTLER — Jackie Breaux, customer accounting clerk in Lake Charles, won this large trophy by winning a women's Eight-Ball pool tournament at Shorty's Bar in Iowa, La., Nov. 21. She won six of seven games to top the field of eight women in the single elimination, best two-out-of-three contest. Jackie won both games in the finals. "My opponent knocked in the eight-ball (prematurely) in the second game," she reported. "But I knocked it in and called the pocket in the first game."

GRANDFATHER

Grandfather sings, I dance.
Grandfather speaks, I listen.

Now I sing, who will dance?
I speak, who will listen?

Grandfather hunts, I learn.
Grandfather fishes, I clean.

Now I hunt, who will learn?
I fish, who will clean?

Grandfather dies, I weep.
Grandfather buried, I am left alone.

When I die, who will cry?
When I am buried, who will be left alone?

Eric Steven Kador

(Kador, 14, son of Christopher Kador, laborer in the line department in Baton Rouge, wrote this poem after the death of his 79-year-old grandfather on Dec. 5)



EARLY CHRISTMAS CHEER — Andy Rodriguez, T&D engineering assistant in Conroe, and his wife Bessie received an early Christmas present Dec. 4 when they became the adopted parents of two children. Shown at the Company Christmas party in Conroe are Jody, 2, and Debbie, 3. (from Bobbie Burke)



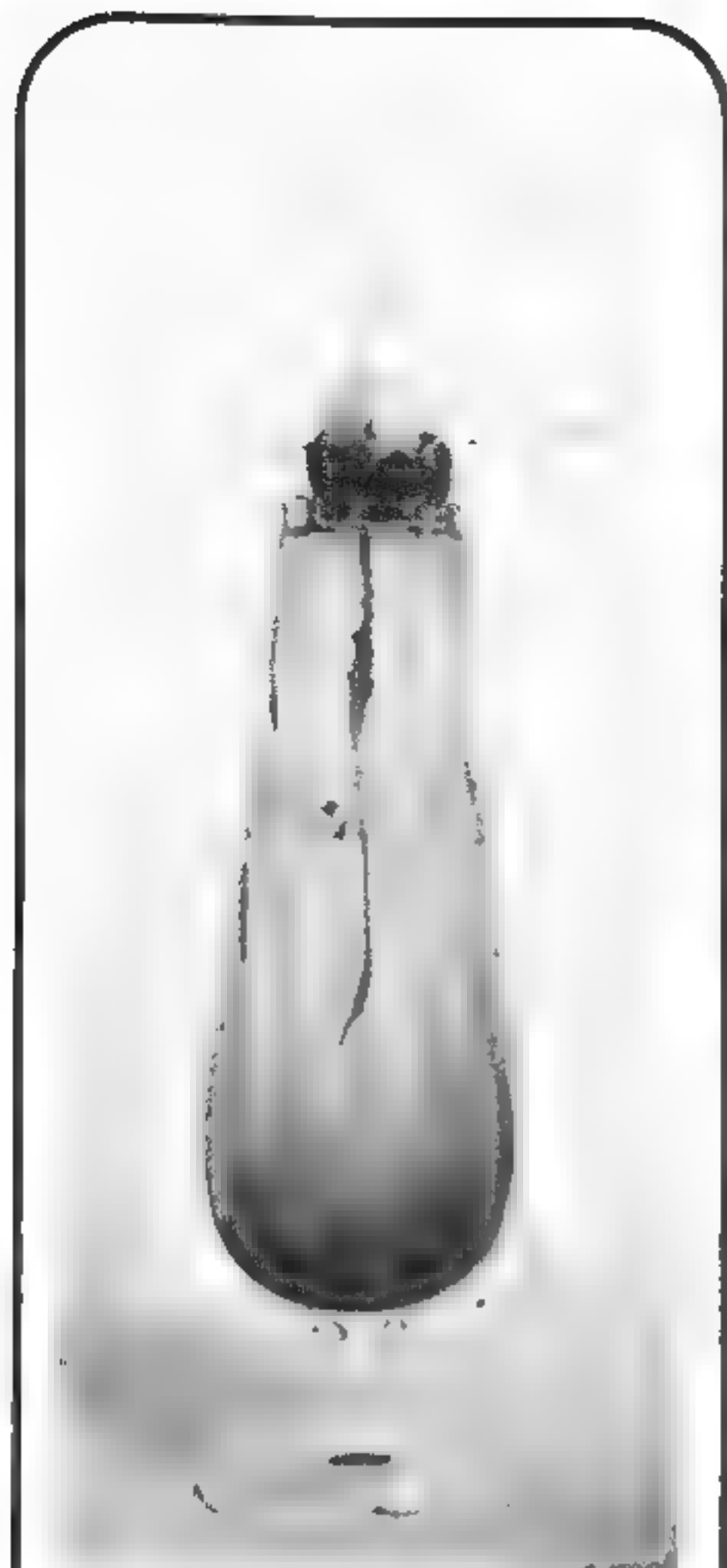
TWIN 10-POINTS — You have to look carefully to tell the difference between the two 10-point mule deer bagged by John T. Williams, foreman of the Beaumont T & D line department, and his son Arthur. The pair ventured to Colorado for a three-week hunting escapade and — save the pictured trophies — came back disappointed they hadn't killed any elk or bear. (from Carolyn Motl)



MEEOW — LSU's football team didn't have the kind of season in 1974 that made its alumni stand up and cheer. The record — 6-5-1 — was the worst since 1966. The calendar of Lake Charles Service Center Stores Clerk Bessie Esthay — wife of a former Bengal gridder — was defaced, with the implication that the "Fightin' Tigers" purred like newborn kittens.



SURPRISE, SURPRISE! — Rose Ann Johnson (lower left), clerk in the meter department at the Beaumont Service Center, thought she was going to skip a birthday Dec. 8 because she was on vacation. Little did she know that her friends at the service center were onto her game and surprised her with a cake and party upon her return to work Dec. 16. Joining in the celebration are (from the left) Joyce Smith, Mrs. Johnson, Pat Wakefield, Lee Castilaw, June Jones, Linda McSwain and JoAnne Landry. (from Carolyn Motl)



AMBIGUOUS AVOCADO — What you see is what you get. One observer thought this avocado looked like a front (or rear) view of an airliner, when you look at that portion above the water line. Another considered the tap root and thought the plant looked like a crucifix. Bessie Esthay, store clerk at the Lake Charles Service Center and owner of the plant, thinks it looks like an ordinary avocado plant. No doubt she's right in that assessment.

Fine Flowers

Nelda Rae Allen, of Nederland, wife of Louis P. Allen, division substation operator in Port Arthur, won 38 awards at the Flower Show in connection with the South Texas State Fair in Beaumont last October.

She won two first place and special (that's even better) awards for her miniature arrangements, two first place mentions in flower arrangements and 20 blue ribbons and 12 red ribbons for arrangements and horticulture. (from Helen Powell)



HONOR GRAD — Debbie Raymond, daughter-in-law of Anna Raymond, departmental clerk in Lake Charles, was one of only two Summa Cum Laude December graduates from McNeese State University.

Mrs. Raymond, a mathematics major with a grade point average between 3.9 and a perfect 4.0, says she is interested in a career in business.



GRANDDADDY AND GRANDBABY — Louis Gradnigo, helper at the Lake Charles Service Center, became a proud grandfather for the first time when Martin Ravel Shaffer was born Oct. 23. Parents were Randolph and Barbara Gradnigo Shaffer of Baton Rouge. Martin weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and stretched a full 20.5 inches at birth. (from Johnnie Harris)



VISIONS OF THE PAST — The Lake Charles meter readers got together for this photo March 10, 1953, nearly 22 years ago. It was dug up just before Christmas 1974 and passed around the Lake Charles office where all but two still work. From the left are Columbus Hanks, now a dispatcher; the late Homer Kirkwood; Eli Benoit, meter reader; Jean Hebert, storeroom assistant; Wilfred Broussard, residential sales; L. J. Menard, collector; Louis Lognoin, a local car salesman; and Charles Callaghan, supervisor-credit and collections.



DEJA VU — Donald Ray Hood, supervisor - area development for the Baton Rouge Division, (second from left) and Lancey Hill were on the Denham Springs basketball team that won the inaugural Wedge Keyes Memorial Basketball Tournament in Baton Rouge in 1950. Their sons, Mike Hood (far left) and Lance Hill, are members of the current Denham Springs team that defeated Chaneyville, 62-60 for the title in the 1974 tournament Dec. 21. (Photo courtesy Gary Hunter, Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate)



DIET-BUSTING BIRTHDAY — If Betty Raines, records departmental clerk in Beaumont, is on a diet like most everyone else, her coworkers did not show very much respect for it when they baked an avalanche of edible goodies for her birthday Dec. 4. Included were two sets of brownies, a lemonade pie, blueberry pie, a "Sock-it-to-me" cake and a coconut layer cake. Birthday gifts with fewer calories included two candy dishes, a purse, pendant, lipstick holder, cologne, stationery and a kolonchoe plant.

When you have any news or a story you think would be interesting to other Gulf Staters, contact the nearest reporter to you, or write or call the *PLAIN TALKS* editor, Mike Ross, in Beaumont. Notify *PLAIN TALKS* reporters of any event that is happening in your area that the magazine should cover. A complete list of reporters and their locations is given below. If any persons named are no longer with the company or no longer active reporters, please contact Mike Ross. Persons wishing to become *PLAIN TALKS* reporters should also contact the editor. We can never have too many reporters.

Reporters

BATON ROUGE: Marg e Force (T&D); T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), James W. Bellio (T&D), GERALYN Williams (Gas), Opal Temple (Acct.), Robert Graves (Storeroom), Susan Wicks, Debbie Lynn (Engr.)

BEAUMONT: Bill Toups (S.C.) Barbara Lindsey, Carolyn Motl (T&D), Ann Ogden, Edy Mathews, Linda Marks, Pat Bailey, Dorothy Nowell, Mary Lee Best, Carolyn Thaggard.

CALVERT: Betty Dowel.

CLEVELAND: Pat Jones, Edd Motchel.

CONROE: Frances Elliot, Bobbe Burke.

DENHAM SPRINGS: Lenele Juban.

GONZALES: Billie Fortenberry.

HUNTSVILLE: Karen Morley.

JENNINGS: Earl Mayfield.

LAFAYETTE: Bobbie Dena s.

LAKE CHARLES: Johnnie Harris (T&D), Janet Foley.

LA. STATION: Leslie Jeansonne.

LEWIS CREEK: D. W. Rutherford.

MADISONVILLE: Wanda H. Tinsley.

NAVASOTA: Betty Dickschat.

NECHES STATION: Gene Russell.

NELSON STATION: Martha Caldwell.

NEW CANEY: Diana Winkelmann, Paul Mosley.

ORANGE: Doris Womack.

PORT ALLEN: Adele Vavasseur.

PORT ARTHUR: Sue Williams, Lorraine Dunham (S.C.)

SABINE STATION: Darlene Faires.

SILSBEE: Maxine Bell.

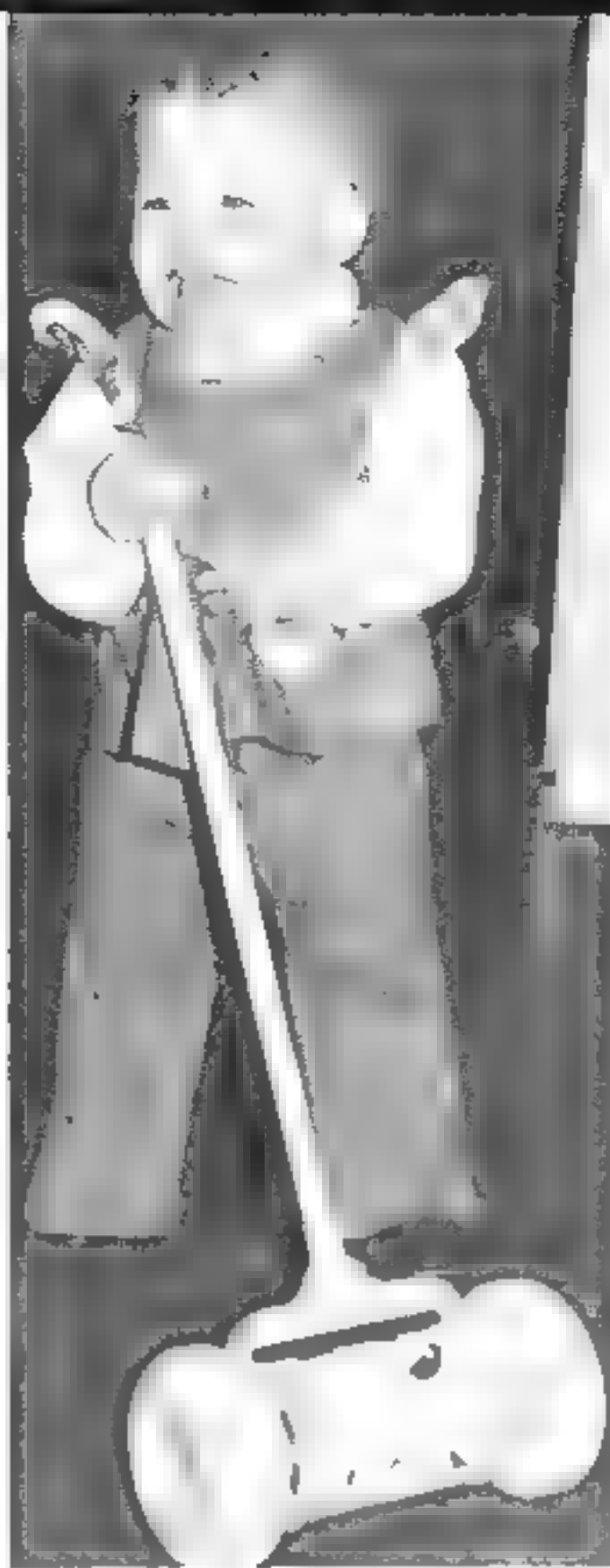
SOMERVILLE: Mary Brock.

SULPHUR: Pearl Burnett.

WILLOW GLEN: Loris Landaiche, James Veatch.

WOODVILLE: Alene Cole.

ZACHARY: Myra Ponthier.



Christmas Photo Album



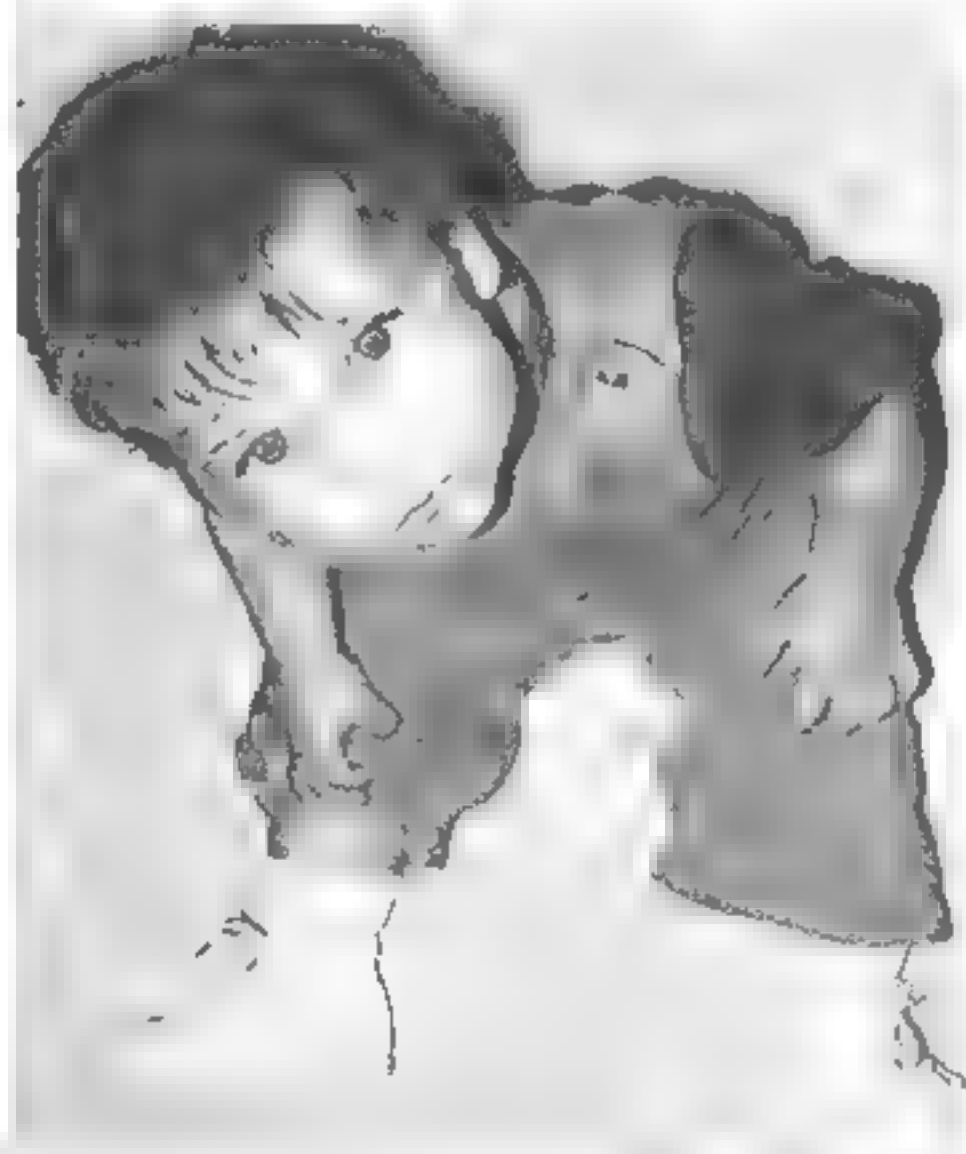


Lake Charles

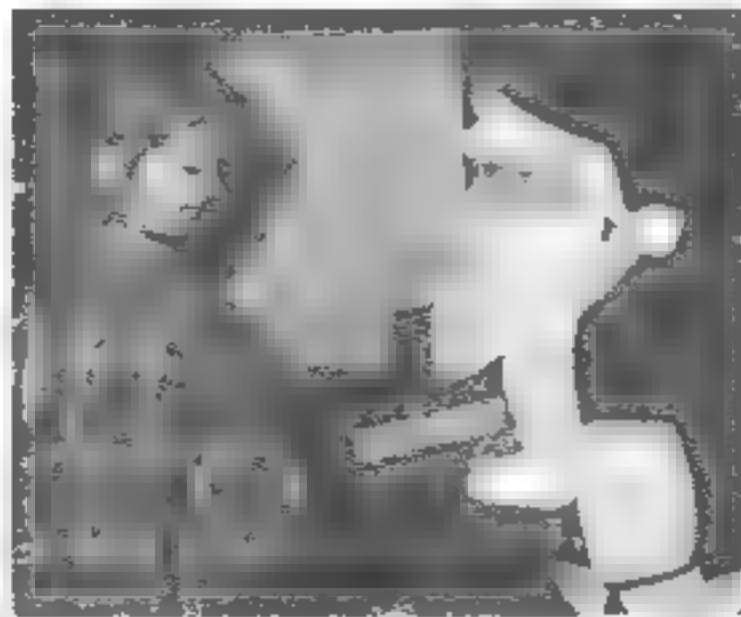




Lake Charles Children



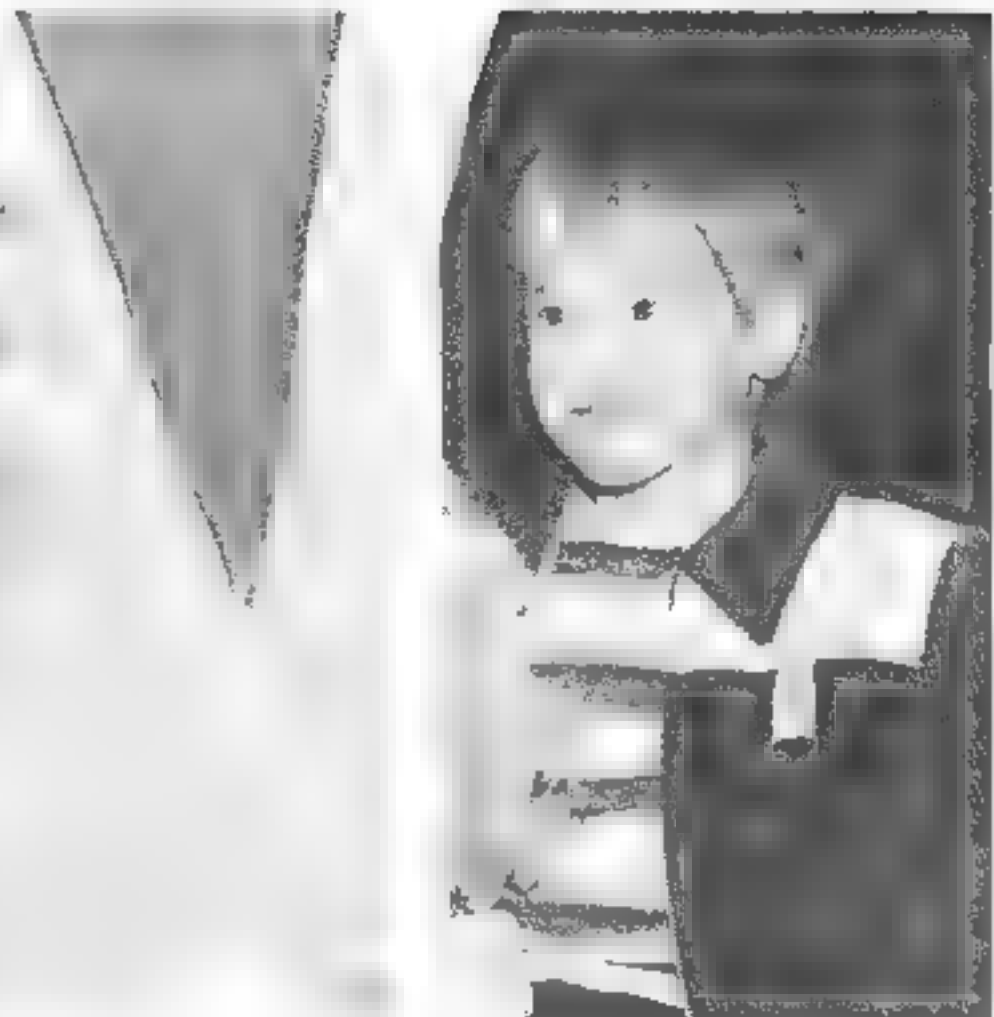
Lafayette





Jennings





Baton Rouge

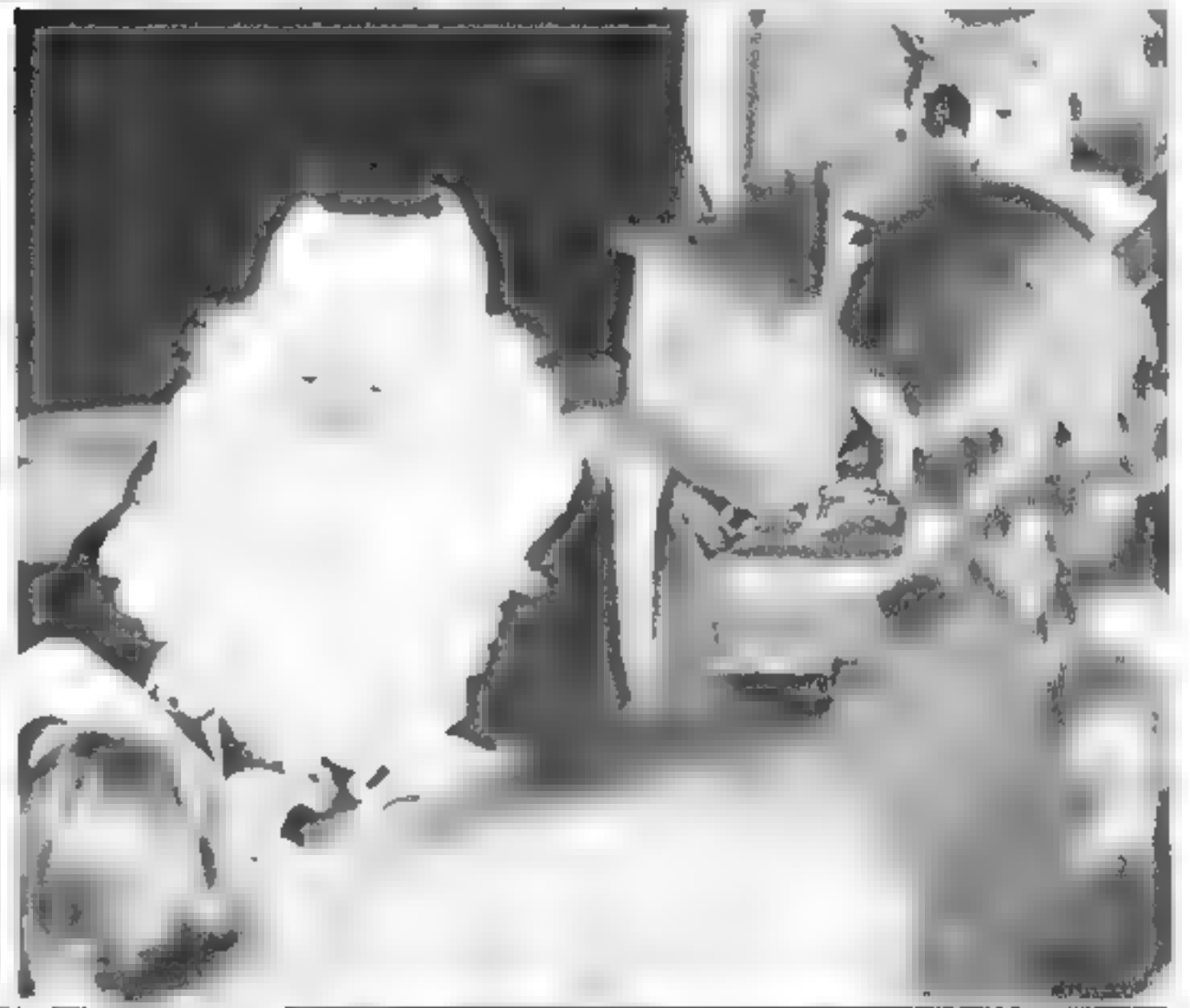


Gonzales





Denham Springs



Zachary



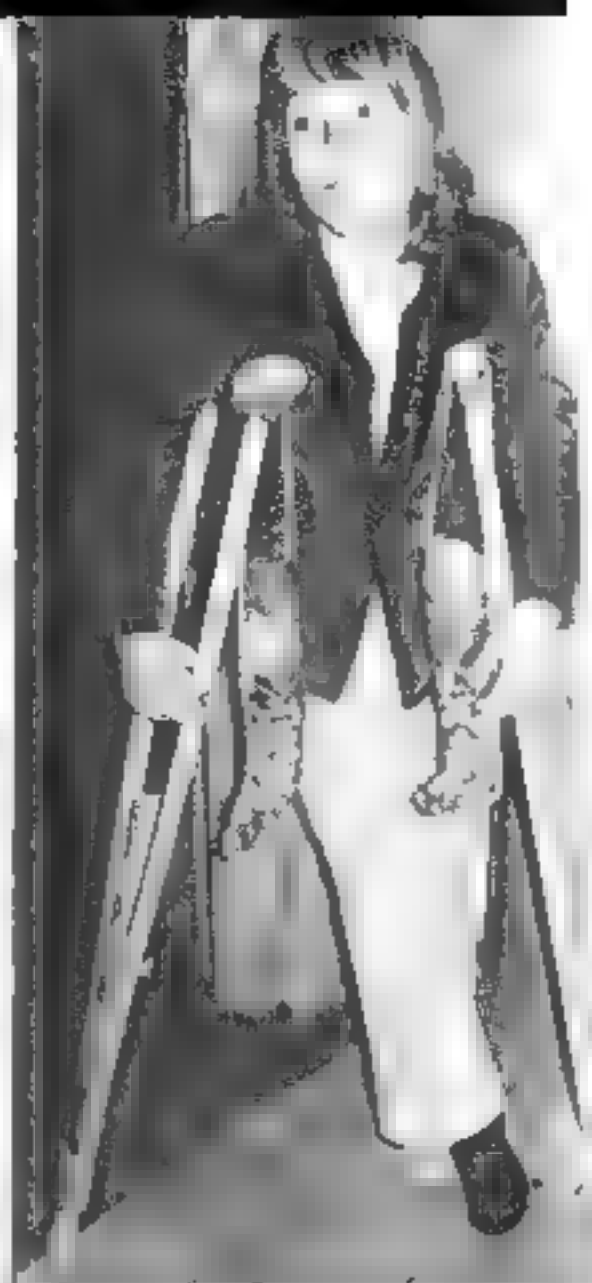
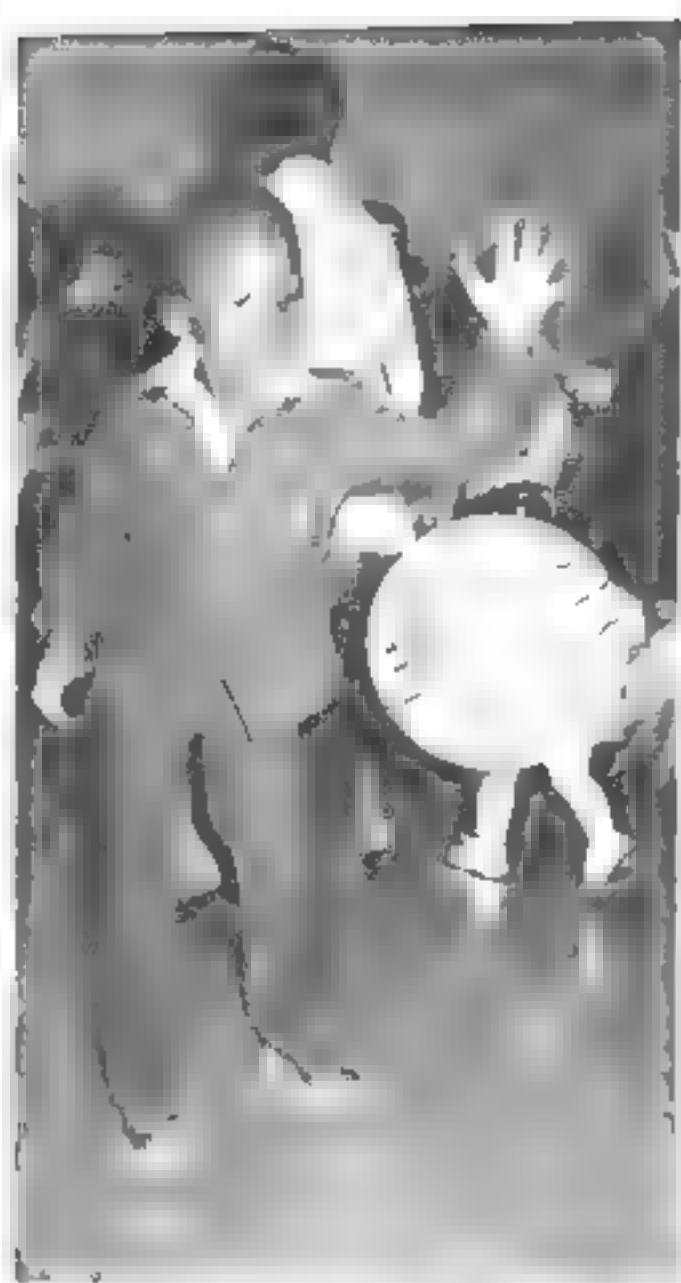


Silsbee



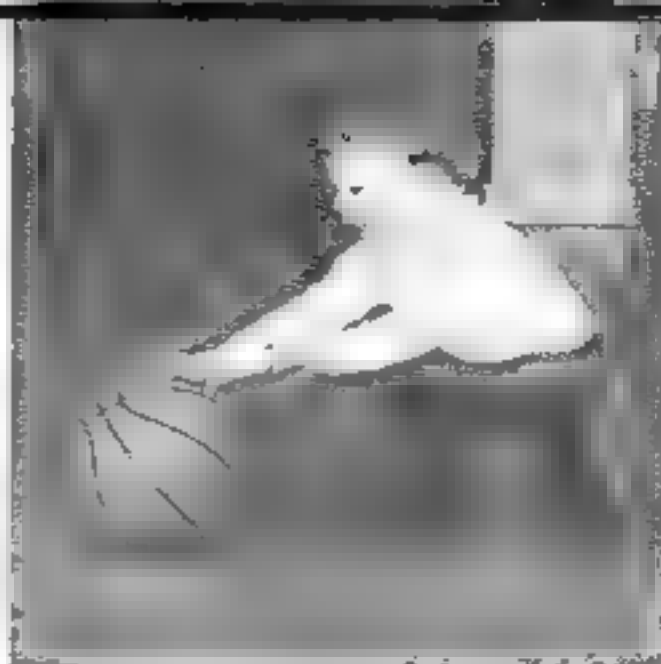
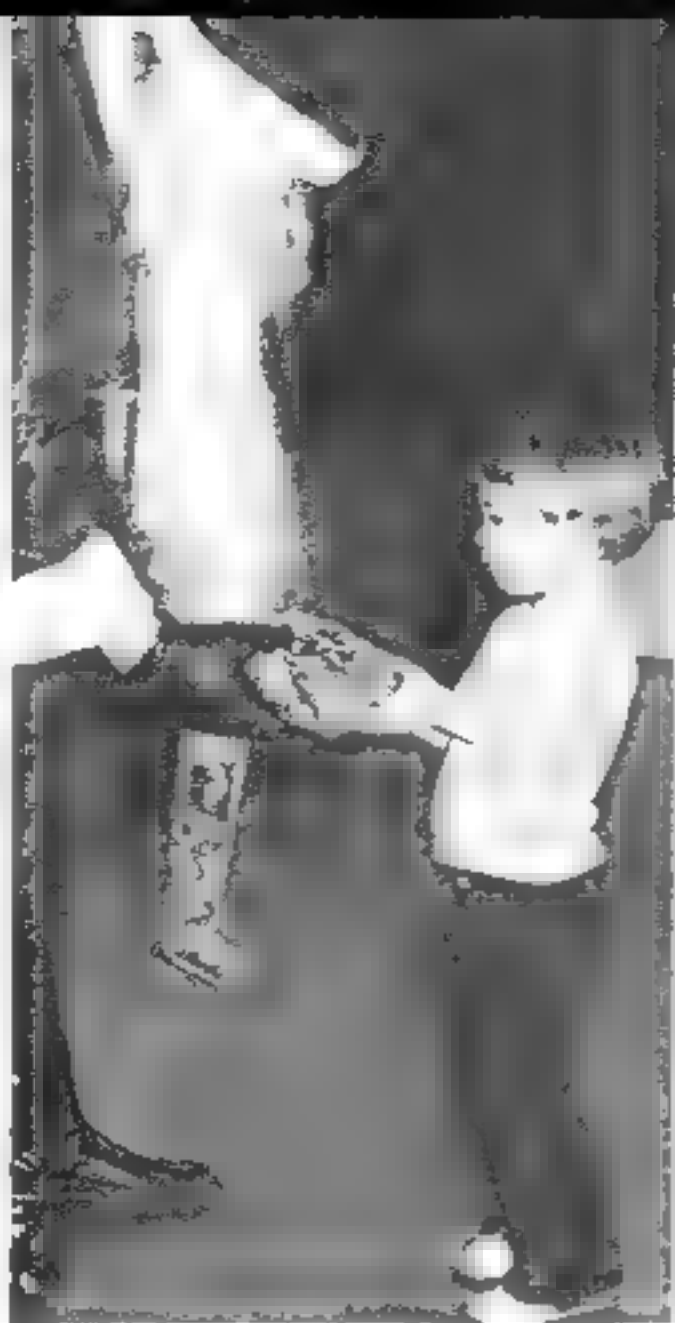
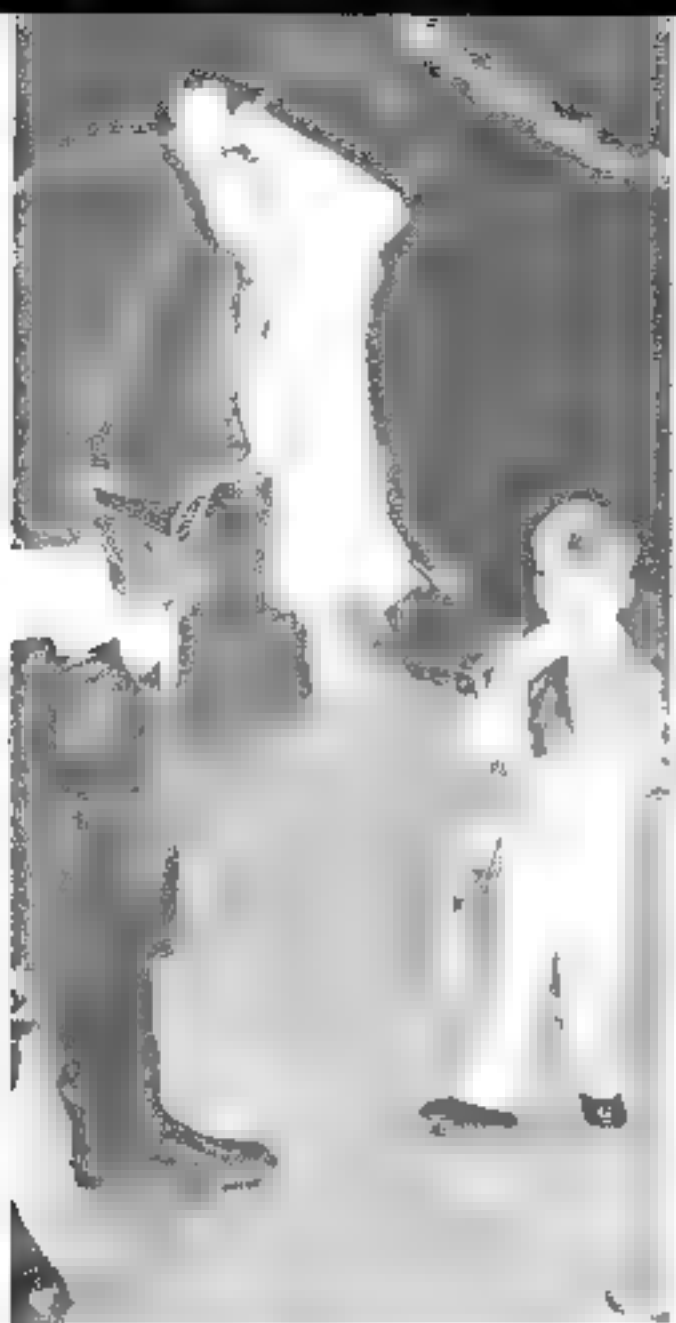
Dayton



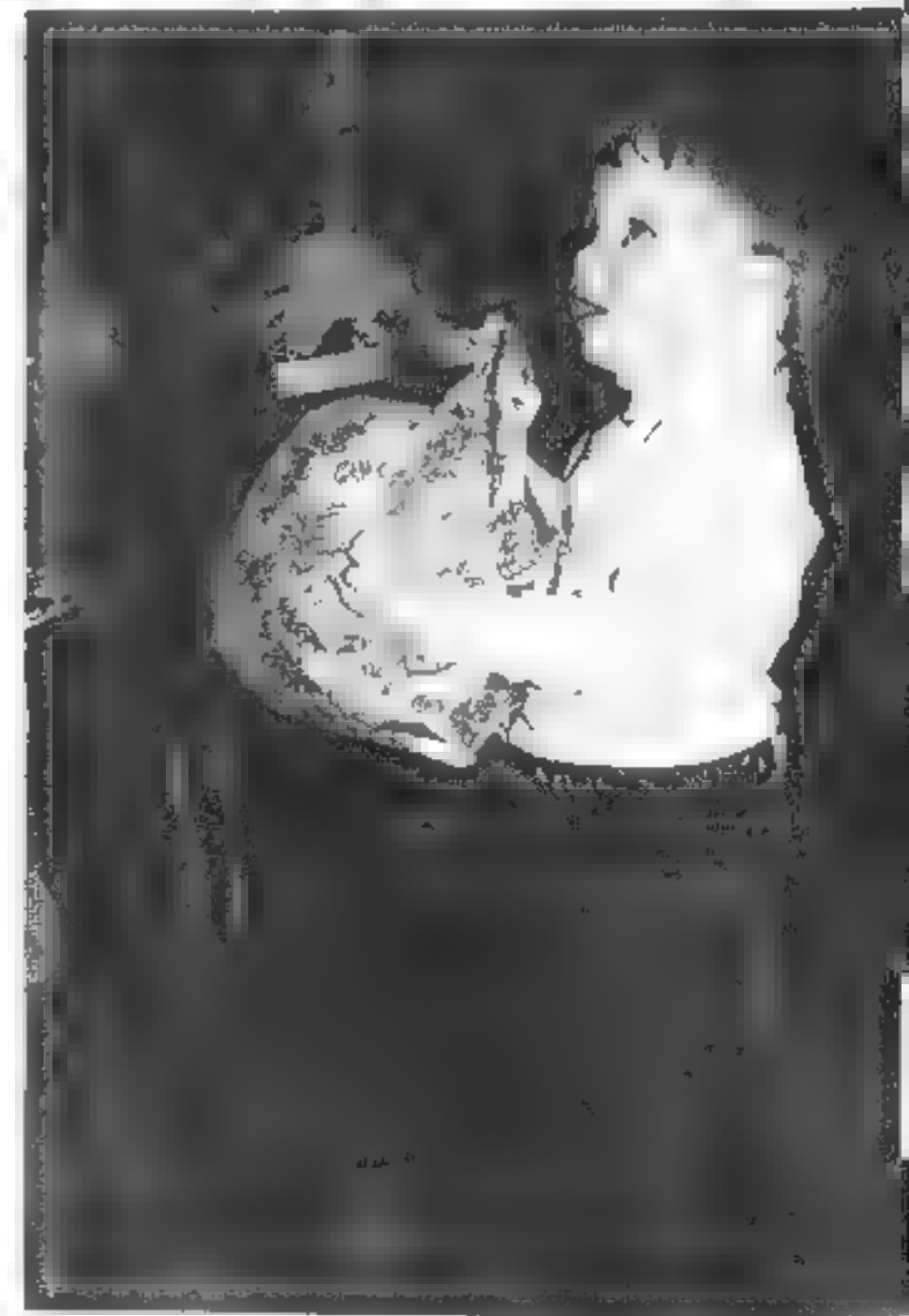
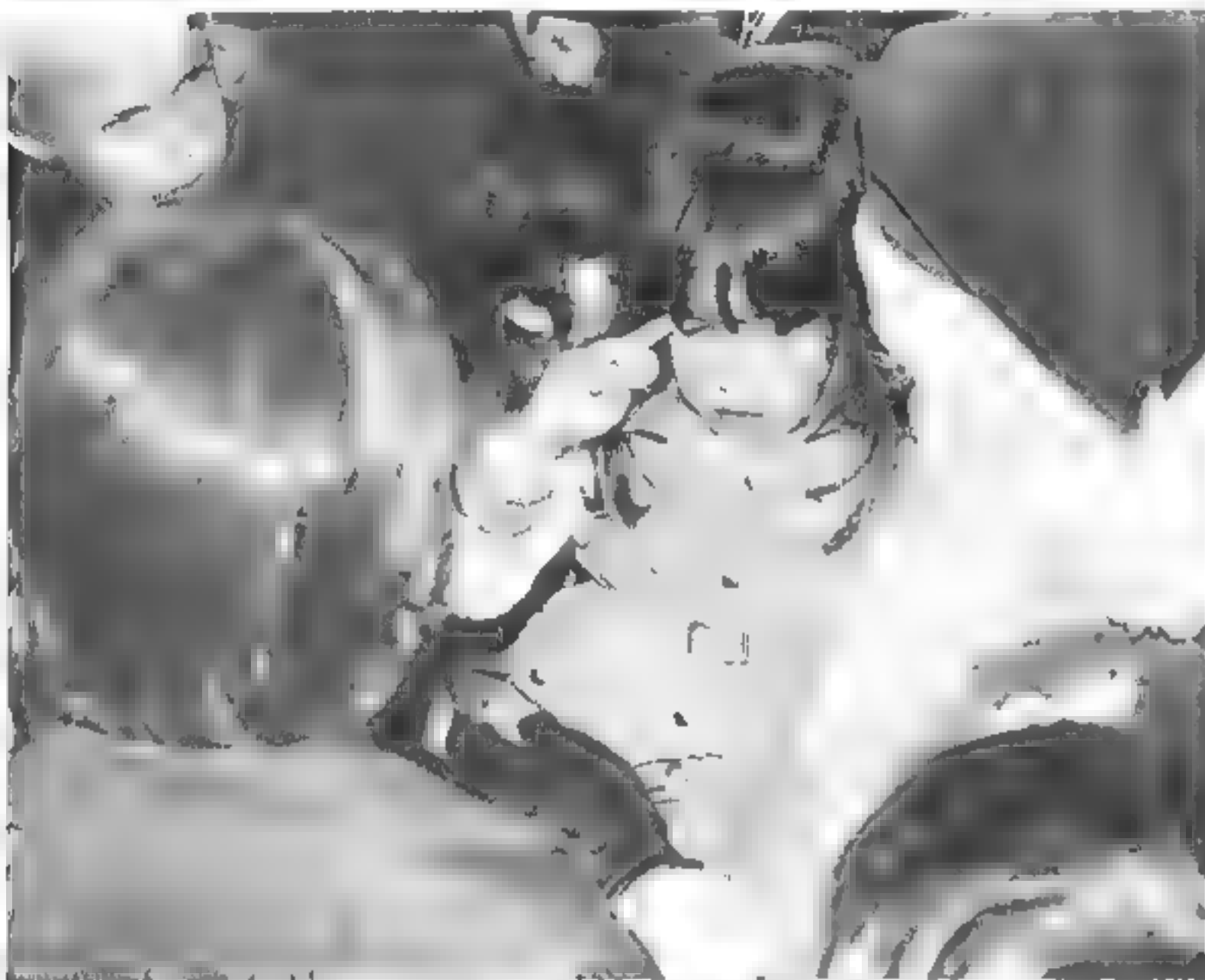


Braumont





System Engineering



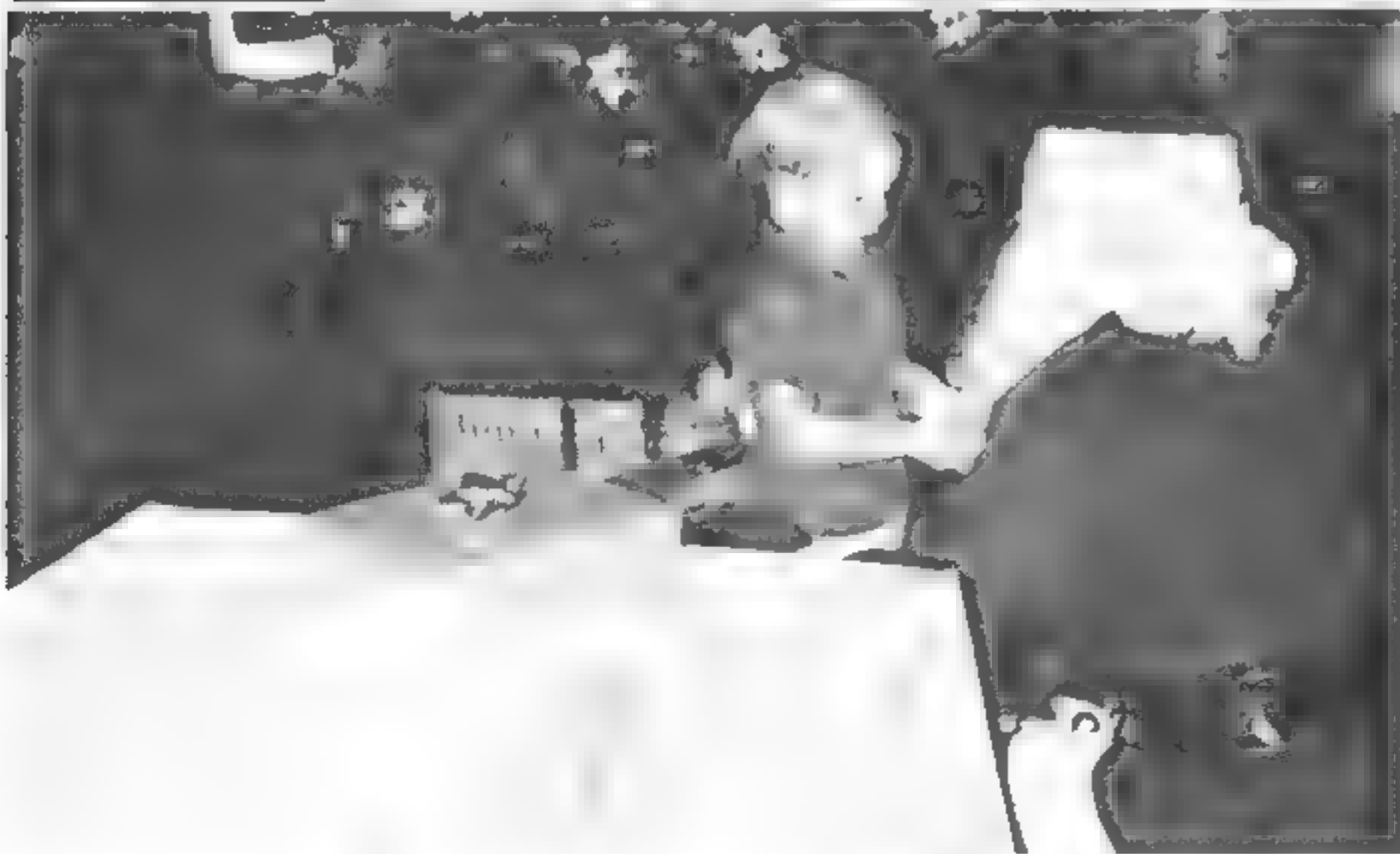


Beaumont
Service Center





Calvert



System Production & Engineering

(Due to an unfortunate error, the editor's pictures of the System Production & Engineering party were unprintable. Plain Talks regrets the error and thanks Charles Echerd for the use of these two pictures.)



Neches Station

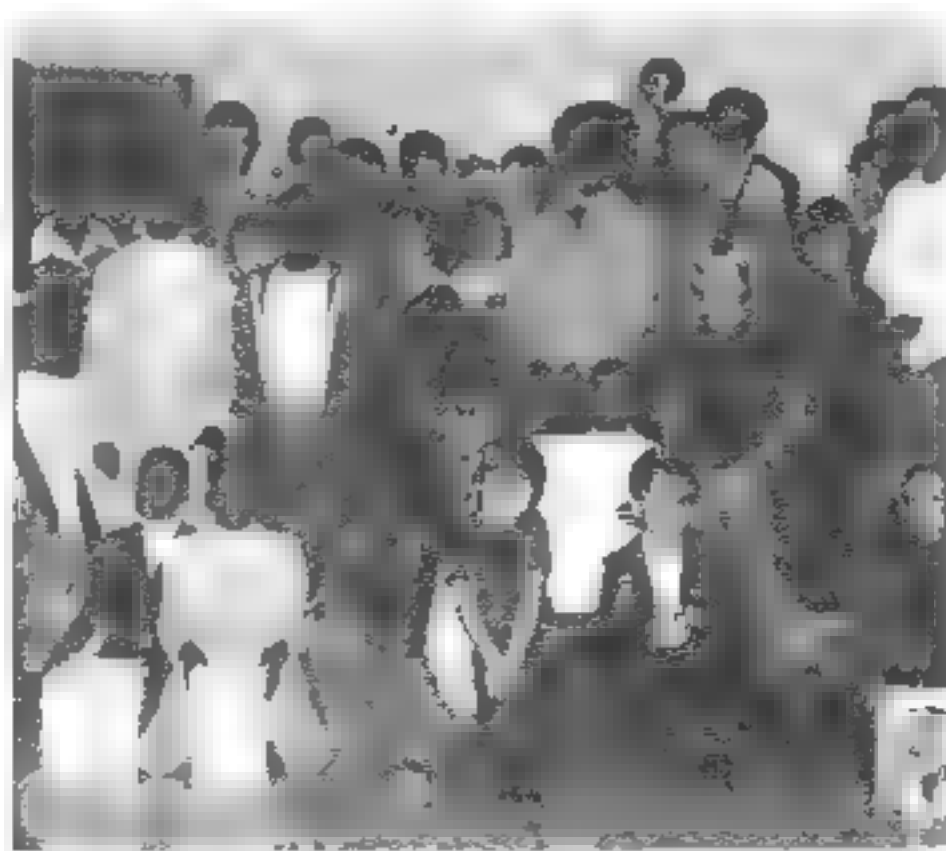




Port Arthur



Sabine Station





Orange



Huntsville





New
Caney

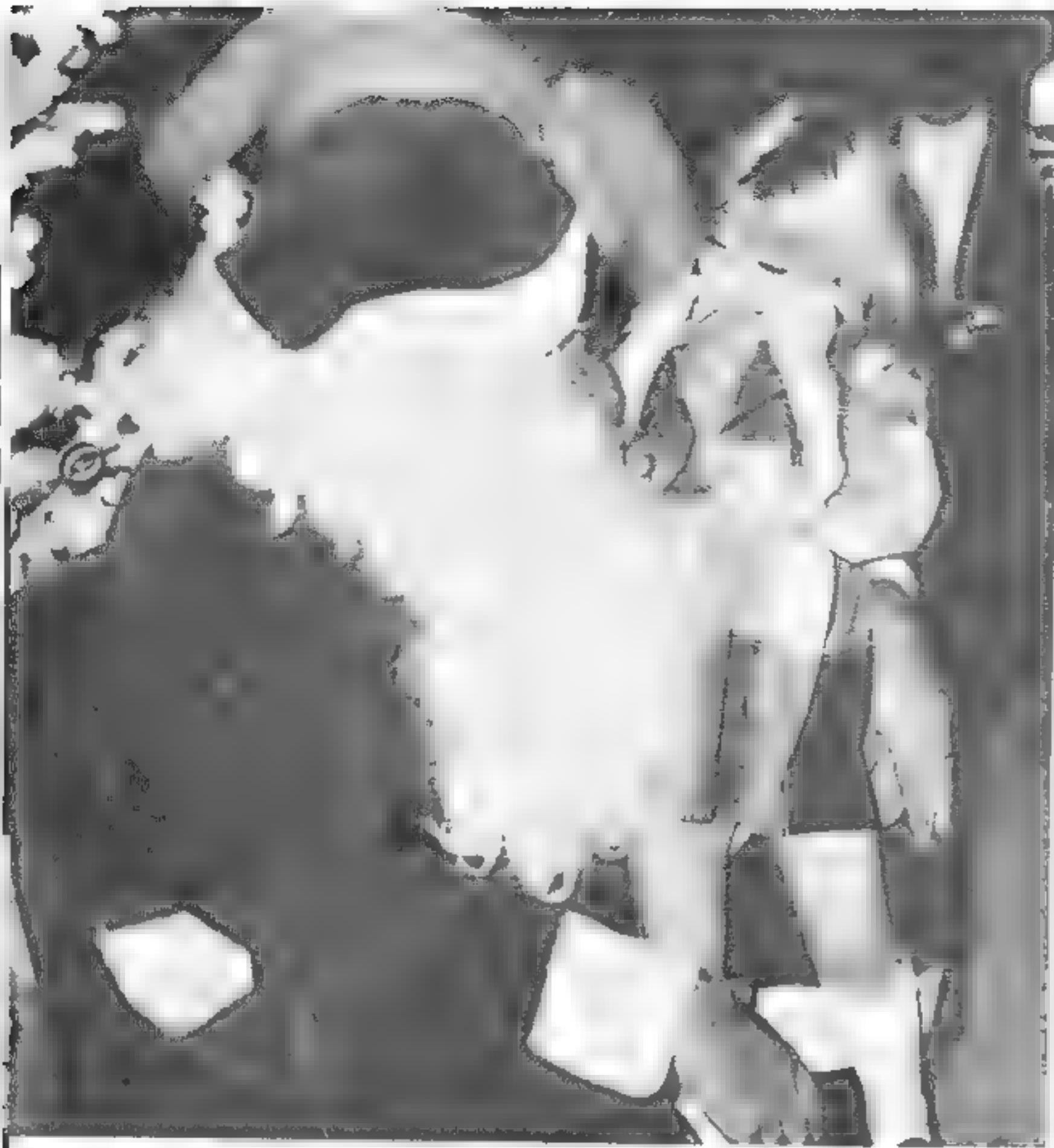


Cleveland

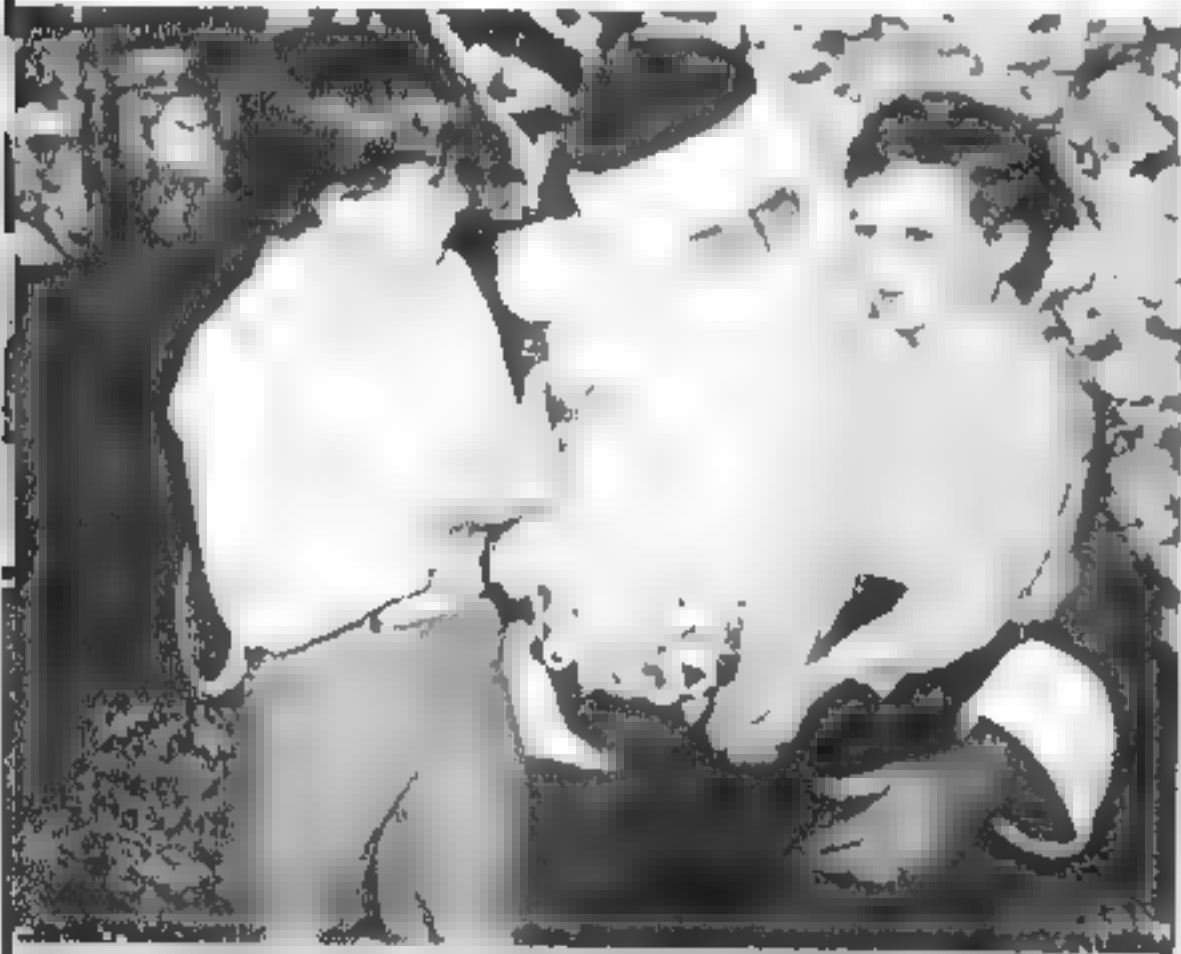


Woodville





Conroe



Lewis
Creek





Nauyasota



WELCOME ABOARD

SYSTEM DEPARTMENTS

Information & Data Services

Domingue, Maxie P., Bmt., Dept Clerk - IDS/Records
Pearson, James M., Bmt., Dpt Clerk - IDS/Data Sys Operns
Morris, Dorothy V., Bmt., Key Punch Oper - IDS/Data Sys Operns
Bijou, Deborah B., Bmt., Dept Clerk - IDS/Recds-Dupl
Sheen, Charlotte C., Bmt., Key Punch Operator - IDS/DSO
Wiltz, Patricia S., Bmt., Dept Clerk - IDS/Recds
Kirchoff, Emma P., Bmt., Key Punch Operator - IDS/DSO

System Engineering

Massingill, Dana E., Bmt., Sr. Engr Asst. - Sys Eng Plann/Plann
Williams, Irma L., Bmt., Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg
Teague, Doris H., Bmt., Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg
Mann, Earnest L., Jr., Bmt., Engr Helper - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg
Carver, Jimmie M., Bmt., Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/DEC-Drftg

System Treasury

Boone, DeWillia M., Bmt., Billing Clerk - Sys Treas/Actg-Sys Billg
Hayes, Lillian J., Bmt., Clerk - Sys Treas/Mtrl Servs-Ovrll
Smith, Susan L., Bmt., Clerk - Sys Treas/Mtrl Servs-Ovrll

PORT ARTHUR DIVISION

Production

Ray, Glenn E., Br City, Laborer I - Sabine Sta
Mann, Debbie B., Br City, Laborer I - Sabine Sta

Distribution

Loyd, Lawrence C., Pt Arth, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Briscoe, Patricia H., Pt Arth, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Broussard, Barbara G., Pt Arth, Dept Clerk - T&D/Service

Treasury

Larson, Jo D., Pt Arth, Clerk - Cust Servs
Wright, Kathleen E., Pt Arth, Clerk - Cust Services
Bond, Beulah S., M-County, Local Office Clerk - Div Treas
Dattalo, Pamela L., Pt Arth, Clerk - Cust Servs

LAKE CHARLES DIVISION

Production

Newmister, Charles E., L Chas, Laborer I - Nelson Sta
Gill, Sharon W., L Chas, Laborer I - Nelson Sta

Distribution

Doran, Donald W., L Chas, Laborer I - T&D/Garage
Forest, Richard P., L Chas, Dept Clerk - T&D/Engr
Guidry, Bruce M., Lafay, Laborer I - T&D/Line

Treasury

Castille, Ronald J., L Chas, Laborer I - Div Treas/Stores
Woodard, Auddie C., L Chas, Clerk - Cust Acctg
Lavergne, Judy B., Lafay Clerk - Cust Acctg

WESTERN DIVISION

Distribution

Burke, Bobbie T., Conroe, Stenographer-Sr-T&D/Overall

Treasury

McGee, Lora R., Conroe, Meter Reader
Davis, Carroll A., Clevel, Meter Reader

BEAUMONT DIVISION

Distribution

Bagwell, John R., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Line
Klingman, Dennis K., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Line
Champagne, Ronald L., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Line
Tompkins, Paul H., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Line
Hayes, Glen J., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Substa
Hardin, Tobe, Orange, Helper - T&D/Line
Tolliver, George, Jr., Orange, Helper - T&D/Line
Dudley, Joseph C., Jr., Bmt., Laborer I - T&D/Garage

Treasury

Worsham, Loretta B., Bmt., Clerk - Cust Acctg
Jones, James W., Bmt., Meter Reader - Cust Acctg
Boudreaux, Andrea A., Bmt., Clerk - Credit & Coll

BATON ROUGE DIVISION

Production

Morgan, Geraldine S., B Rouge, Mechanic Helper (Test)
W/Glen Sta
Gauthier, Michael G., B Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta
Nevels, Bobby L., B Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta
Comeaux, Richard K., B Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta

Gas Department

Morris, Mays I., Jr., B Rouge, Laborer I - Gas Dept

Distribution

Jones, Randall R., B Rouge, Shop & Field Tester - T&D
Lee, Luanne, B Rouge, Dept Clerk - T&D/Engr
Smith, Leon, B Rouge, Laborer I - T&D/Garage
Bates, Dennis M., B Rouge, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Millican, Terry R., B Rouge, Laborer I - T&D/Line
Hadden, Robert R., B Rouge, Laborer I - T&D/Line

Treasury

Ginn, Tamara A., B Rouge, Clerk - Credit & Coll
McAdams, Debra V., B Rouge, Clerk - Cust Acctg
Buell, Barbara L., B Rouge, Clerk - Credit & Coll
McCray, Betty G., B Rouge, Clerk - Credit & Coll
Jeffers, Janie F., Den Sprgs, Meter Reader - Cust Acctg
Fair, Maxie S., B Rouge, Stenographer-Sr-Div Treas/Overall

RECIPES



Karen Kelly
Baton Rouge

Karen Kelly is one of our Company's newest Home Service Advisors and comes to the Baton Rouge area from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe.

A native of Minden, in North Louisiana, Miss Kelly is active in her chosen profession. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Louisiana Home Economics Association, Louisiana Home Economists in Business and the American Home Economics Association.

Her contribution this month revolves around cheese and what can be done with this popular dairy product. Cheese is very versatile and lends its own distinctive flavor to foods in which or with which it is used. It is an economical, protein packed food.

The many varieties of cheeses afford an appetizing range of flavors from mild to nippy. Textures ranging from soft and spreadable to hard and grateable make cheese adaptable to use in virtually any part of the menu.

For appetizers that are a little more elegant than ordinary snacks, try cheese. A simple cheese tray is easy to create and fun, too. Choose varieties to satisfy every appetite by including at least one each of mild, robust, spicy and flavored cheeses. Serve at room temperature. Lightly salted mild crackers and party rye breads are good cheese accompaniments.

Here are some before-a-meal cheese recipes that will please both your family and special guests.

'Say Cheese'

WELCOME WAFERS

¾ cup butter or margarine
½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/3 cup Blue cheese
¼ tsp. garlic juice
1 tsp. parsley
1 tsp. chives
2 cups sifted flour

Cream butter and cheese. Mix in garlic juice, parsley, chives and flour. Shape in 1½ inch rolls; chill. Slice rolls; place on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees 8 to 10 minutes.

PARTY CHEESE BALL

6 ozs. Blue cheese
Two 5 oz. jars process Cheddar cheese
Four 3 oz. pkgs. cream cheese
2 Tbsps. grated onion
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ tsp. monosodium glutamate
Red pepper to taste
1 cup finely chopped pecans
½ cup finely chopped parsley

Combine all ingredients except ½ cup pecans and ½ cup parsley. Shape cheese mixture into a ball. Combine remaining pecans and parsley and roll cheese ball in mixture. Chill. Serve with a variety of crisp crackers.

QUICHE LORRAINE WITH SWISS CHEESE

1½ cups (6 ozs.) grated imported Swiss cheese
8 slices crisp bacon, crumbled
One 9 inch unbaked pie shell
3 eggs
1 cup heavy cream
½ cup milk
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
Dash of red pepper
½ tsp. dry mustard

Sprinkle cheese and bacon into pie shell. Beat remaining ingredients together and pour over cheese. Bake at 375 degrees 45 minutes, or until firm and browned. Cut into wedges and serve hot. Serves 4.

GARDEN CHEESE DIP

One 17 oz. can green peas, drained
One 3 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
½ cup dairy sour cream
½ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
1 Tbsp. minced onion
1 clove garlic, finely minced
Juice of ½ lemon
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. prepared mustard
Dash of red pepper

Puree peas into a smooth pulp in the blender. Blend in remaining ingredients and chill thoroughly. Serve with potato chips or crackers. Makes 3 cups.

SESAME CHEESE ROUNDS

½ cup butter or margarine, softened
½ lb. shredded American cheese
1 cup sifted flour
1/8 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1/8 tsp. paprika
1/8 tsp. onion powder
Sesame seeds, toasted

Combine butter and cheese. Add flour, salt, pepper, paprika and onion powder; mix well. Form into balls; flatten and dip into toasted sesame seeds. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 375 degrees 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 50 rounds.

Toasted Sesame Seeds

Spread seeds in pie plate and toast at 350 degrees 10 to 15 minutes, until golden brown.

HOT CHEESE FONDUE

2 cups light cream
5 Tbsps. flour
1 tsp. steak sauce
1 medium onion, finely chopped
6 Tbsps. butter or margarine
2 chicken bouillon cubes
1½ cups grated Swiss cheese
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
½ cup Sauterne
Dippers (fresh cooked shrimp, ham cubes)

Mix cream, flour and steak sauce and set aside. Sauté onion in butter with bouillon cubes in fondue pot at highest heat position, stirring to dissolve cubes. Add cream mixture, stirring constantly until thickened. Add cheeses gradually and stir until melted. Add Sauterne and mix well. Set control at medium heat position for serving. Serves 10 to 12.

CHEESE STRAWS

1½ cups grated American or Cheddar cheese
½ cup butter or margarine
2 Tbsps. ice water
1½ cups flour
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. red pepper

Cream cheese and butter in blender. Add ice water. Add flour and seasonings. Squeeze out of pastry tube or roll out on slightly floured board 1/8 inch thick. Cut strips 1/2 inch wide, 4 or 5 inches long. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees 20 minutes.

SAUSAGE APPETIZERS

1 lb. process American cheese, shredded
3 cups biscuit mix
1 lb. hot sausage, uncooked

Combine cheese, biscuit mix and crumbled sausage. Mix until well blended; shape into 1 inch balls, flatten with fork or leave in balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees 12 to 15 minutes. Can be frozen and baked when needed. Makes 5 dozen.

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. BOX 2001
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

RETURN TO: 1000

Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11

NAYLOR, ALFRED E.
345 MASTERSON DR.
BEAUMONT

TX 77707

Consumer Scene



How To Interpret Appliance Warranties

Practically every piece of consumer information dealing with "How to buy..." cautions the consumer to read and understand the warranty. That's easier to do now than it once was.

Until recent years, many warranties (which, incidentally, are the same as guarantees) were long, complex legal documents, nearly defying reading, let alone comprehension.

While long, complicated, legalistic warranties still can be found, most major manufacturers of consumer goods have simplified warranties so that buyers can ascertain quickly what is and is not covered in the warranty contract.

For example, the warranty on General Electric dryers has been reduced from a 600-word document to a 176-word statement.

When you read a warranty, remember that it not only outlines what is covered by the manufacturer, but also specifies exceptions to the coverage.

There are about 11 exceptions which may occur in some major appliance warranties. If you are aware of them, it may help you evaluate warranties when you are appliance shopping. Most commonly found are:

- Home use only—other uses excluded from coverage.
- Warranty registration card required or suggested.

-Valid only for original purchaser.

Other common exceptions could be called the "who pays for what" clauses. Read them carefully, for they often exclude from warranty coverage:

-Transportation and shipping costs and/or serviceman's travel fees.

-Consequential damages, such as a floor damaged by a flooding washer.

-Service labor—the warranty may be limited to parts only or to specific parts.

Other restrictions might include:

-Disclaimer of implied—and all other—warranties.

-Filters, plastic or glass parts not covered (light bulbs).

-Warranty void if product serviced by unauthorized servicer.

-Opinion of the seller determines whether a part is defective.

-Void if serial plate defaced.

Remember that the warranty is part of the appliance when you buy it, so don't hesitate to collect on it when you are justified in doing so. Remember, too, that verbal agreements or promises from the dealer are subject to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. If the dealer makes a promise that goes beyond the manufacturer's warranty, get it in writing.